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SECRET OF SAINTS' SUCCESS

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THREE-MENDOUS



Lambert fires a treble

SAINTS 3 NOTT'M FOREST 2

RICKIE Lambert's hat-trick gave Saints a dramatic 3-2 victory over Nottingham Forest on another record-breaking day at St Mary's.

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However, despite being under pressure for much of the second half, Lambert rose to head home Danny Fox's late free-kick, and give Saints a fifth win in their opening six matches.

TOWERING: Rickie Lambert bullets in a header on the way to his hat-trick.



TERRY PAINE



Saints legend's
exclusive column
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CRICKET



Today's Hants
match report
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best coverage
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– for lunch
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SAINTS 3 FOREST 2: ADKINS' MEN HIT BACK

TWELVE HOME KEEP SAINTS IN

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However, despite being under pressure for much of the second half, Lambert rose to head home Danny Fox's late free-kick, and give Saints a fifth win in their opening six matches.

It was a scrappy start to the game, as the stiff breeze blowing around St Mary's caused both side problems.

It was Forest who took a sur-

Gordon Simpson

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SPORTS REPORTER



DANGERMAN: David Connolly gets in on the act

prise lead, though, scoring with their first attack, in the seventh minute.

Radoslaw Majewski broke through the centre and played

a great ball down the left channel to Ishmael Miller.

He, in turn, fired over a superb low cross for **DERBYSHIRE** to tap in at the

far post. The lead lasted only a matter of moments, though, as Saints struck back.

Guly do Prado cut in from the right-hand side and found Adam Lallana with a threaded pass. His resulting shot was saved by Forest keeper Lee Camp, but Rickie LAMBERT was on hand to turn in the rebound from close range.

Lallana was starting to cause an increasing number of problems for the visitors, and Chris Gunter had to make a good block to deny his back post shot a couple of minutes later.

Lambert could have grabbed a second midway through the half, as he had a sight of goal from 25 yards, following Wes Morgan's foul on Connolly, but his free-kick flew just over.

However, the striker did double his tally in the 25th minute, as Saints took the lead for the first time.

A great flick from Guly found Connolly down the right. His cross was flicked on by Lallana to the far post, where LAMBERT was waiting to nod in.

Forest's Guy Moussi went into the book a minute later, for a foul on Lallana.

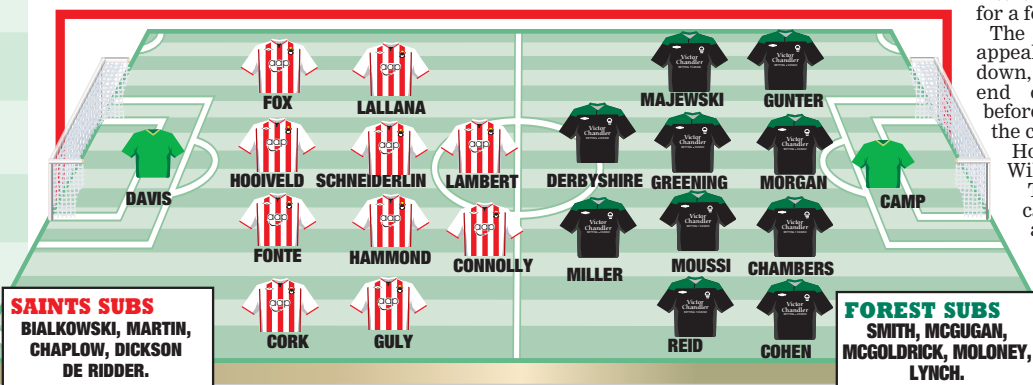
The visitors then had a big appeal for a penalty turned down, as Miller got onto the end of Derbyshire's flick, before going to ground under the challenge of Fox.

However, referee Iain Williamson waved it off.

The official went for his cards in the 33rd minute, as Connolly and Gunter were both shown yellow for a bit of pushing and shoving before a Saints corner.

Gunter's cross from the right five minutes later picked out the unmarked Derbyshire, but he headed over from around about the penalty spot.

Forest did find an equaliser in the 42nd minute, though, as Derbyshire was slipped in down the left channel by Miller. Rather than shooting, the striker cut the ball back to MAJEWSKI to side-foot home



NIGEL Adkins made three changes to the side that lost 3-2 at Leicester in Saints' last Championship outing.

Full-backs Frazer Richardson and Dan Harding were both left out of the squad, as was Dan Seaborne, after the centre half sustained a serious head injury in an incident outside a Southam-

TEAM NEWS

pton nightclub last week. In their absence, Jack Cork was moved to right back, on-loan Celtic centre back Jos Hooiveld was handed his debut, and £1.8m signing Danny Fox was given his first start at left-back.

With Cork moving into defence,

Morgan Schneiderlin was drafted in to partner Dean Hammond in the centre of midfield.

Forest manager Steve McClaren brought in Guy Moussi, Matt Derbyshire and Andy Reid replacing George Boateng, Robbie Findley and Lewis McGugan. Former Saints striker David McGoldrick was a sub.

TODAY'S CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS AND TABLE - SEE BACK PAGE

Saints Spotlight

AFTER FOREST SCORE A SHOCK OPENING GOAL

WINS RUNNING SECOND PLACE

from 12 yards. Camp then saved well from Connolly in injury time, to keep the scores level going into the break.

Chris Cohen's free-kick within a minute of the restart caused a scramble in the box, with Kelvin Davis doing well to tip Moussi's effort away.

Cork then went into the book for impeding Miller on a breakaway, as Forest started to apply some serious pressure.

Lallana relieved some of that with a shot from the edge of the area that Camp turned round his post at full-stretch.

Davis then had to keep out Majewski's drilled effort from long range.

Andy Reid beat Guly down the left in the 55th minute, with his low cross parried by Davis, but neither Derbyshire nor Miller could quite turn the ball in.

Jose Fonte nearly regained the lead for Saints, against the run of play, but Reid cleared his header from Lallana's corner off the line.

Steve McClaren made his first change in the 65th minute, taking off the impressive Miller, who appeared to be feeling his hamstring, and replacing him with former Saints striker David McGoldrick.

Debutant Jos Hooiveld headed over Fox's cross moments later, as Saints looked to get themselves back in front.

Morgan Schneiderlin hit a thumping volley in the 68th minute from Connolly's lay-off, but Camp turned it behind.

Adkins then made his first change, swapping Guly for Richard Chaplow, and changing to a diamond midfield, moving Lallana up behind the front two.

Reid had an opportunity for the visitors in the 70th minute, after Hooiveld had fouled McGoldrick.

But the midfielder's free-kick from just outside the right edge of the area narrowly missed.

A clever ball round the corner from Majewski in the 73rd minute found Derbyshire, but Davis easily gathered his ambitious chip from a tight angle.

Majewski handled just outside the left corner of his own area in the 77th minute, but Camp parried Lambert's resulting free-kick, before Lallana fired well wide



THE OLD ONE-TWO: Lambert guides the ball in at the post – and beats Lee Camp again with a header, above.

from the rebound.

McClaren then swapped Moussi for Joel Lynch to freshen things up, before Adkins also made his second substitution, hauling off Connolly and replacing him with wide man Steve De Ridder.

Davis nearly got himself on trouble on the edge of his box, with a heavy touch from a back pass.

Derbyshire nicked the ball off him and went down as Davis tried to recover, but referee Williamson gave a free-kick to Saints and booked the striker for diving.

It was a defining moment, as Saints went straight back down the other end to take the lead.

After De Ridder was fouled by Lynch, Fox delivered a lovely inswinging free-kick from the right.

LAMBERT rose to meet it with a



powerful header, and although Camp got a hand to it, he couldn't prevent Saints' number seven claiming his hat-trick.

McClaren's last throw of the dice saw the talented Lewis McGugan brought on for Jonathan Greening.

However, Lambert's goal clearly deflated Forest, and frustration set in as Lynch was booked for dissent.

There were a groans when the fourth official indicated five minutes of injury-time, but Saints comfortably held on.

Adkins praises top win

A DELIGHTED Nigel Adkins hailed a thrilling afternoon's football, as Saints dramatically beat Nottingham Forest 3-2.

Rickie Lambert's hat-trick meant the hosts claimed all the points to remain second in the Championship table.

And the Saints manager was even more enthusiastic than normal after watching the entertaining encounter.

"What an exciting game of football, what an absolutely top afternoon's entertainment," said Adkins.

"I think the crowd have all gone away, they must be happy with that, because there was some good football played, a very open game.

"We've got plenty of goals in there, some great goals, like Rickie's sec-



PERFECTION: Rickie Lambert celebrates making it 2-1 against Forest.

ond goal, where we've played out from the back.

"Rickie's getting fouled all over the place for the winner, but he's put it in the back of the net."

With the match finely poised at 2-2, Forest had late claims for a penalty turned away, after Matt Derbyshire went to ground as he went for a ball with Saints keeper Kelvin Davis.

The striker was actually booked for diving, before Saints went straight up the other end to grab the winner.

"There was a bit of controversy with them claiming for a penalty," said Adkins. "I've watched it and it's definitely not a penalty."

Adkins also revealed that defender Dan Seaborne, who suffered a serious head injury in an incident outside a Southampton nightclub just over a week ago, was discharged from hospital today.

"That's really pleasing, although he's still got a fair way to go," said Adkins.

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MORE SAINTS V FOREST IN MONDAY'S DAILY ECHO

Saints Spotlight



Stars turn out to help ex-Saint

THE 2011 Kevin Moore Golf Day is just a month away – and there is still time to book your place alongside a host of Saints legends.

Former Dell defender Moore, 53, who scored in the 1992 Zenith Data Systems Cup final at Wembley, suffers from a rare form of dementia, called Pick's Disease.

The fans' favourite, pictured above, now spends much of his time confined to a wheelchair and requires 24-hour care.

In order to help his family pay for that, the Kevin Moore Benefit Fund was set up in 2010.

Since its inception, a host of events have been held to raise vital cash.

And organisers have now arranged a second annual golf day, which will take place at Meon Valley, on Friday, October 7. Once again, many of Moore's former teammates and friends have given up their time to play.

Saints legend Matt Le Tissier is organising the celebrity players and has already rounded up the likes of Jimmy Case, Nick Holmes, Iain Dowie and Francis Benali.

Former Saints manager Dave Jones will also captain a side.

Teams of three, which will each be assigned a captain, cost £350. The price includes coffee and bacon rolls on arrival, as well as tickets to the evening dinner, which will be hosted by Mike Osman, who has donated his services for free.

A number of auction prizes have already been donated, including a day with Mick Channon, at his West Ilsley stables, and a trip to the Sky Sports studios to see the live filming of a show.

To donate an auction prize, or to enter a team, call Richard Becheley on 07876 778891, Lisa Catlin on 07717 871322, or email richard@bbmltd.com

Secrets of Saints' amazing success



THUMBS UP: Nigel Adkins can be delighted with his team's start.

THE international break gave all Saints fans the chance to take a deep breath and take stock of what has been an incredible start to life back in the Championship.

A best ever start to the season saw Nigel Adkins' men record four straight league wins before an unfortunate defeat at Leicester brought the run to an end.

Even the most optimistic Saints fan could scarcely have dared to dream that their side would be top of the Championship table after four games, let alone scoring goals for fun and playing some great football as well.

It's been a remarkable ride thus far and *The Pink* takes a look at some of the reasons for the success.

PRE-SEASON

Few teams have a good start without a decent pre-season behind them.

That doesn't have to mean winning lots of games – there's only so much that can be achieved by knocking over a bunch of Swedish part-timers or similar.

But you have to make sure your players are fit, confident and understand what is being asked of them when the big kick-off comes.

There have been so many examples of teams cruising through pre-

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CHIEF SPORTS REPORTER

season and then falling apart when faced with genuinely motivated opposition – or of sides stuttering in the summer and then coming good when it matters.

Nigel Adkins' pre-season was very low key, with surprisingly few fixtures, but the plans obviously worked.

He struck the balance just right between ensuring the players were free from injury for the start of the campaign but also fit and sharp enough to compete.

It's a delicate balancing act and one which many a manager has got wrong.

Adkins got it right and Saints have reaped the rewards.

SQUAD UNITY

A team spirit is vital to any successful side.

Adkins made a very deliberate decision to keep together the squad that had got Saints promoted from League One.

People forget that coming into the Championship that squad had been successful for over 18 months at that point.

They were assembled largely by Alan Pardew after the beginning to

Why Adkins and Villas-Boas are so similar

CHELSEA manager Andre Villas-Boas and Saints boss Nigel Adkins share one huge, striking, similarity.

Much like Villas-Boas, pictured, Adkins started out as a physio and his career in football has gone from healing damaged limbs to repairing damaged clubs.

Adkins' record at Saints stands out superbly, with a win percentage of 70, having won 35 games out of 50.

When he was first sought after by chairman Nicola Cortese, following Alan Pardew's sudden sacking, some Saints fans questioned whether the club still had ambition, as many wanted a bigger name.

SAINTS FAN'S VIEW...by Michael Carr

However, Adkins showed at Scunthorpe that he could mould together a group of players, and his management of people was his greatest strength.

The first thing he did at Saints was to get to know the players.



Previous Saints boss Alan Pardew was popular with the squad, a "footballers' man", however something was missing under Pardew.

The transformation of Saints under Adkins was quick, steady and quiet. He was soon getting the team playing for him with his unique stamp of football, fitting into what Cortese calls the 'Southampton way'.

How he did that was by making the best use of the technical players that he had at his disposal,

like Adam Lallana, Morgan Schneiderlin and Alex Chamberlain, while using the likes of Jose Fonte to pass it out from the back.

The focus was on retaining possession and removing the direct approach. The change of style was brave, but the players adapted.

While the champagne football was flowing, behind the scenes Adkins was also building bridges and instilling confidence.

The manager has never criticised the team, or an individual.

One particular player he singles out for praise consistently is Guly do Prado. To many Saints fans he is something of an enigma – he

has undoubted quality, yet sometimes makes some noticeable errors.

Even when Guly didn't have his best game, Adkins would defend him. Now, he is one of the club's most important players and has repaid the faith Adkins put into him with vital goals.

Many fans are surprised Saints have started the season in spectacular fashion, but we shouldn't be – much of football is won psychologically. What Adkins has done is made the players mentally focused. He knows leagues aren't won by teams but are won by squads.

And this squad has the ability to take the Championship by storm.

JOIN IN THE SAINTS DEBATE ONLINE AT dailyecho.co.uk

Saints Spotlight

Join King Kev for lunch...

SAINTS legend Kevin Keegan is set to make an appearance in Southampton at a lunch in the city's Grand Café.

The former England manager, who stunned the football world when he signed for Saints from Hamburg in 1980, still has legions of fans.

Keegan, pictured right in his Southampton days, will also be joined by the man who persuaded him to come to The Dell, 1976 FA Cup winning manager Lawrie McMenemy.

Also at the lunch on Friday, October 28, at the South Western

House venue is former Saints midfielder Dave Armstrong who is organising the event.

As well as a terrific lunch, all three legends will be on hand to tell stories of their time at Saints and the wider football world and answer questions from the audience.

The event kicks off at 12.30pm with tickets priced at £60 including VAT.

Further information and ticket bookings can be obtained through Armstrong on 07803 669815 or via email armstrong.859@btinternet.com



Poyet beats Adkins to boss award

BRIGHTON boss Gus Poyet edged out Nigel Adkins to claim August's Championship manager of the month award.

The Uruguayan pipped his Saints counterpart to last season's League One title, and has now done the same for the first individual honour of the new campaign.

Poyet has led Brighton to four wins and a draw in their opening fixtures – putting them top of the table, a point ahead of Saints.

Adkins' men had been at the summit for most of the month, before

being knocked into second after a 3-2 loss at Leicester last time out.

And that switch in standings was enough to earn

Poyet the season's first award.

As well as Adkins, the Seagulls chief also beat the fellow shortlisted pair of Derby's Nigel Clough and Middlesbrough's Tony Mowbray to the crown.

But, realistically, the award was always going to go to one of Poyet or Adkins.

The decision of the judging panel might well prove an extra sweet one for the Brighton boss.

There was a simmering tension between Poyet and Adkins last season, after the Seagulls were irked by a throwaway comment from the Saints manager about whether Brighton could keep up with them.

That led to a major attempt to humiliate Adkins when the teams met at the Withdean Stadium, after Brighton had sealed the title.

But the Saints boss turned the tables that day and guided his side to a dramatic come-from-behind 2-1 win that ended up leaving the hosts red-faced.

The two will clash again when Brighton visit St Mary's on Saturday, November 19.

Picking up the award, Poyet said: "This is credit to everyone at the club, but especially the staff at the training ground and of course the players."

There was disappointment for Saints winger Adam Lallana, who was beaten in the player of the month category by Middlesbrough forward Marvin Emnes.



ALAN PARDEW

Saints' first season in League One with the likes of Rickie Lambert being recruited very early on.

A stirring run only just saw them miss out on the play-offs despite a ten point deduction and land the Johnstone's Paint Trophy at Wembley.

The following season it was no surprise to see the same squad win automatic promotion.

Now all those players signed by Pardew, plus a sprinkling of new additions, are doing the business in the Championship.

When Pardew first arrived he spoke of the need to develop a winning mentality in the club and that if Saints got it it could take them far.

They had developed it before Adkins came in and, despite a stutter in the void left after Pardew's sacking, he has carried it on.

Keeping together the same group was a risk, and going forward it may need to be changed, but thus far it has paid off.

MOMENTUM

An intangible asset but so important to sporting sides.

Momentum can feel unstoppable – the very same group of players can feel like they will win no matter what when things are going

well or like they will never win a game again when they are going badly.

Saints had a fantastic run to secure automatic promotion from League One towards the end of last season.

Despite that, it didn't feel like a large amount of momentum was carrying over through the summer.

But that proved to be incorrect as the team picked up where they left off.

Alright they have only just lost a game and not suffered serious injuries or harmful suspensions yet, and those are the big tests, but thus far they are flying.

Going 3-1 down at Leicester and having been so shaky they could have folded and conceded a couple more.

But there was clearly that belief as a result of their momentum that they could overcome their poor start and get something from the game.

As it turned out they had given themselves too big a mountain to climb but the belief was there for all to see as they battered the Foxes towards the end of the game.

ADAPTABILITY

There were certain players in the Saints squad that you just knew would make the step up to the Championship.

Adam Lallana was always going to be easily good enough, as was Jose Fonte.

Kelvin Davis had been there and done it all before whilst David Connolly has played at a higher level.

But as for the others there were some who we suspected would be good enough and others we weren't so sure about.

Thus far Adkins has only used a limited number of players which means the squad is really yet to be tested for depth.

The players that have played have been superb though.

They haven't just looked like being able to compete in Championship but able to deal with the best in the division.

OPPORTUNISM

Saints were handed a few fixtures at nice times – but they made the most of it.

Leeds were struggling on the

opening day having just lost both of their strikers after a shaky summer. It was the perfect time to play such a big club, especially at home.

Saints' first away game was at Barnsley who were in a very negative frame of mind, trying to find their feet under a new manager with new ideas but on the back of a very bad result. Again it was the perfect time to play them.

Ipswich were also rocking, though in fairness they still are.

It doesn't take away from Saints' achievements to say they got a few kind breaks in the way the early season fixtures panned out because you still have to beat whatever is in front of you and nobody is juts going to turn up to get beat. That said it did help.

ATTACKING STRENGTH

Saints' success has been built on their ability to score goals – as a record of 12 in five games underlines.

The attacking triumvirate of Rickie Lambert, David Connolly and Adam Lallana have been sensational.

Championship teams have yet to work out how to deal with Lallana drifting inside from the left wing, and the player himself has raised his game still further since making the step up.

Lambert and Connolly also work so well together, dropping deep, running off each other.

Connolly has relieved some of the goalscoring pressure on Lambert by contributing so many himself, and the big man remains so very key to the way Saints perform.

Saints do need to sustain goals from other areas of the pitch over the course of the season, though.

And how they will perform when one or more of the three inevitably sustain an injury, or pick up a suspension, that keeps them out of the team remains to be seen.

But whilst they are fit and firing they are going to be a massive challenge for any Championship defence to contain.

TACTICS

Adkins has got his tactical approach just right.

He hasn't mucked about too much with the diamond midfield which proved effective on occasion when employed during a game last season but was largely made to look like an inferior formation when starting with it.

Instead he has largely stuck to a 4-4-2, ensuring the players are clear about their roles and responsibilities and understand it at all times. That is generally the best way.

However, he has allowed them the freedom to express themselves within the constraints of the formation.

There has been a great fluidity of movement, and consequently awareness from the other players.

That has made Saints very hard to defend against.



AN UNSOLVED PROBLEM:

Saints' rivals have yet to work out a way of coping with wing wizard Adam Lallana.

SEE MONDAY'S DAILY ECHO FOR MORE SAINTS NEWS

BEAUTIFUL SOUTH

BY DAREN WHEELER

Club vs country...

WITH the break from action for Premiership and Championship clubs, the focus turned from domestic to international football.

There used to be a time when an England game was something to look forward to.

I remember many matches spent in the pub with friends, when the atmosphere would often be electric.

This time I watched one England game on my phone, the other at home... The honest truth is that I wasn't really that bothered, and I wonder if I'm alone?

Don't get me wrong, I'm English and proud of it, but over recent years I've found more national pride in watching the cricket than I ever can watching football.

Am I alone in feeling isolated from the English national football team?

Am I alone in feeling no connection with the likes of Frank Lampard, John Terry and Ashley Cole?

Or am I looking for something in football that just no longer exists anymore?

There has always been an argument of club over country.

Mostly, I find that those who watch their club week in week out will pick their own over country.

Those that watch football from afar tend to pick country over club.

It's by no means completely that way but, without wishing to be overly controversial, there is a palpable difference between fans that go to club football on a regular basis and those that don't, when it comes to

this topic. There's an emotional connection to those players you follow week in and week out, but what connection is there with the likes of Cole or Terry?

There just appears to be too much money and, while it certainly affects club football, it hurts the national game as well.

Everton are making the headlines at the moment, and for all the wrong reasons. Bill Kenwright is one of the best chairmen out there right now – honest and passionate, he's what all chairmen should be.

You can tell he desperately loves his club, so much so that he won't bankrupt it or sell to the next foreign consortium.

But the harsh truth is that his club is facing financial melt-

down.

Kenwright revealed Everton are making about £80m, and spending £85m a year.

It doesn't take a financial genius to work out that when a

club like Everton, who haven't won anything of note in years, are that much in the mire then football is in real trouble.

The banks are closing their doors to football clubs, as the recession hits harder and harder.

It's not rocket science, there is no money in football anymore unless you're a Manchester United, Manchester City or Chelsea.

But you have to spend money to be one of those three, and the money spent to achieve Champions League status far outweighs the rewards.

What bank would lend you money to get something that is worth less than what you spent to get it?

There is a link between the two top-

"Used to be a time when an England game was something to look forward to."



EMOTIONAL CONNECTION: Do you feel one to England's millionaire footballers?

ics. If people such as you and I are losing interest in the national team, why is it?

It goes back to something I mentioned earlier, the lack of empathy most of us have with the players on the pitch.

For those of us who watched Saints go from the Premier League to League One, the players we watch on a Saturday actually mean something.

I couldn't, for the life of me, watch a club like Chelsea or Manchester City and their collection of various multi-millionaire show ponies.

Where's the emotional connection

to the players? How can you feel any kind of empathy to a player who earns more in a week than some do in a year?

Instead, we find ourselves on a seemingly endless merry-go-round of mediocre England performances, centreing around a seemingly untouchable group of millionaires who somehow seem to dictate what names go on the team sheet.

No matter how well the likes of Gary Cahill, James Milner or Gareth Barry perform they'll always be replaced by the Frank Lampards, Steven Gerrards and Rio Ferdinand of this world, who always seem to

have some sway on who plays and who doesn't.

How many times have you seen England show promise, show some desire with a younger team, only to see the same old faces come back in yet another dull, uninspiring show?

Saints face Nottingham Forest today. It's not as glamorous as England, or as high profile, but Saturday will see me at St Mary's rather than watching yet another dull, lifeless, England performance.

Does that make me odd? Probably, but until you can get me to care about the national game then I'd say no.

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Departs 15 March 2012

Paine's World

The Saints legend's **EXCLUSIVE** column on all things football



England look far from Fab

IF only England manager Fabio Capello could transfer away success to Wembley.

A comfortable 3-0 win in the Vasil Levski stadium in Bulgaria gave me a growing sense that we were witnessing a fresh start.

Tactics and team selection suggested a much more positive approach.

Frank Lampard was dropped to the bench, the first time this magical midfielder had not started a competitive match for England since the World Cup quarter final v Brazil in 2002.

His days may be numbered, following Scott Parker's selection, while the absent Steven Gerrard and Jack Wilshere will certainly jump to the front of the queue when they are available.

Gary Cahill had an outstanding game at the back.

Added to his defensive qualities is his eye for goal, as he showed by opening the scoring.

It must have been a frustrating week for Cahill, with all and sundry expecting him to join Arsenal or Spurs. You wondered if that disappointment would affect his performance. Not so.

Ferdinand may also see his permanent position under threat, not

just from Cahill but from new teammate Phil Jones, who is likely to be fast tracked before long.

England's approach in Sofia was the most positive performance for some time. The pace and movement of Ashley Young and Theo Walcott was backed up by the inspirational Rooney, who transferred his club form into a match-winning performance.

His two goals propelled him into the top ten of all-time England scorers, with 28. With this new-found optimism and Wales' win over Montenegro, our closest rivals, Capello could be justified for thinking everything went well.

Unfortunately, England's match against Wales, apart from the result, was a massive let down. All the expectation and optimism after the Bulgaria win vanished in that lethargic performance against a side ranked 117th in the world.

England must thank their lucky stars for the horrendous miss by sub Robbie Earnshaw, as Wales deserved to take a point from Wembley.

So where does the problem lie? England's performance at Wembley was ordinary at best and afterwards Capello suggested many senior players are mentally

scarred.

But certain selections have not been good enough. I have never felt that James Milner and Gareth Barry have the necessary ability to be regular internationals.

Playing for your country used to be a privilege and the pinnacle of your career, but Paul Ince is the latest former England player to say that more importance is now attached to the Premiership and Champions League.

Capello told us he could see the players were not up for it in the warm up, but it's his job to make sure they're prepared.

If he has doubts about certain players they should be disregarded in favour of hungry players. I believe Capello should have been released after the 2010 World Cup shambles. England need someone new in place before 2012 because our priority should be the 2014 World Cup.

After 2012, Capello walks away and two years is too little time to prepare for a tournament of this magnitude.



HEAD BOWED: Fabio Capello should have gone after the 2010 World Cup.

Owen Humphreys/PA wire



Theo's a man in the middle

I AM glad to see that at long last Theo Walcott agrees with me.

For the last two seasons, I have gone on record to say Walcott would never be a natural wide player.

His main problem is his inability to find ways past defenders other than using sheer speed.

That is not a criticism but an observation after seeing him over many games.

He has also commented on the fact he joined as a striker and prefers that role.

He points out that even in wide positions Arsenal are not a crossing team.

His ability is to make quick, darting runs from deeper central positions, demonstrated by his winning goal in the Champions

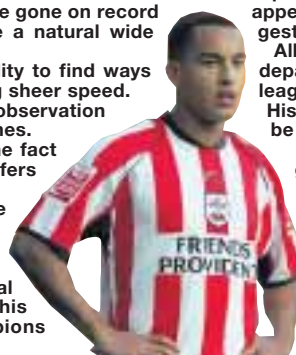
League success in Udinese.

Surprisingly, he has never made more than 28 appearances in a Premiership season, suggesting a player prone to picking up injuries.

All other stats show an improvement in all departments, in particular his nine goals in 28 league appearances last year.

His ability to play through the middle should be taken on board by Arsenal and England.

Given this role, I believe he will prove a great asset for club and country.



WINGING IT: Theo Walcott, pictured far left scoring for Arsenal (Nick Potts/PA wire), has finally admitted that playing out wide does not suit his game. Inset, Theo in his Saints days, when he was mainly a striker.

Saints Spotlight

Saints have always

WHEN YOU think of the changing face of Saints down the years you immediately recall former players, managers, maybe even chairmen.

But the most visible sign of change is the club's kit.

Saints have had many different designs and styles for their shirts, with the home kit mainly focusing on the classic red and white stripes which are so synonymous with the club.

Here at the *Pink* we celebrate Saints' home kits through the years by printing a timeline of how things have changed and looking back at some classic images from our archives.

1885: White shirt with red sash the first kit of St Mary's Young Men's Association.

1889: Shirt design changed to red and white quarters.

1894: Club becomes Southampton St Mary's, with shirt changing to red and white halves.

1896: Southampton FC is created and the first red and white stripes appear.

1957: For the first time, the shirt switches from a collar, moving to a v-neck.

1974: The first manufacturer badge – a small Umbro logo – appears on the shirt.

1976: Admiral become the new manufacturer and the first big design change since 1896 occurs, with stripes of varied thickness.

1980: Patrick take over as manufacturers. The main body of the shirt becomes white, with red stripes off to the side. Rank Xerox become the first main shirt sponsors.

1983: Air Florida take over as shirt sponsors.

1984: Draper Tools begin their period as sponsors.

1985: Saints change to a mainly red shirt, with shadow stripes.

1987: Hummel become manufacturers and launch a complicated halved design.

1989: Saints switch back to more traditional red and white stripes.

1993: Pony become manufacturers and produce a somewhat maligned effort, featuring the trademark Pony 'tick' design. Dimplex become main shirt sponsors.

1995: The traditional, simple, red and white stripes return, as Sanderson take over as sponsors.

1999: Very thick red and white stripes brought in, as Friends Provident are announced as new sponsors.

2001: The traditional red and white stripes return.

2006: Flybe become main sponsors.

2010: Flybe end deal. Saints unveil a white kit with a red sash, harking back to their roots, in order to celebrate the club's 125th anniversary.

2011: Saints return to red and white stripes.



HOLLYWOOD STAR: Denis Hollywood in 1970/71 season with the classic stripes.



GIVE IT TO RON...: Davies that is, on his head. 1971/72 season.



HEADS UP: Paul Gilchrist towers high in red and white in 1972/73.



OSSIE IN ACTION: A collar appears in 1973/74, as shown by Peter Osgood.



JUST PEACHY: By 1975-76 the Umbro logo has appeared on David Peach's shirt.



ALL CHANGE: Admiral are the kit makers and the stripes change in 1976.



SUPER TED: Ted MacDougall in action in 1977/78. Note the tight shorts.



HAPPY PHIL: It's long sleeves for a happy Phil Boyer in 1978/79.

TODAY'S CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS AND TABLE - SEE BACK PAGE

Saints Spotlight

been a kit of alright



ONE LAST SHOUT: Saints' kit is about to make a rather dramatic change.



KING KEVIN: Patrick are the shirt makers in 1980 and the kit gets a major overhaul.



BRILLIANT BALLY: The fantastic Alan Ball displays Saints' first shirt sponsor, Rank Xerox.



SLIDING IN: It's a new era in the kit world and it's about to change again.



NICKING IN: Air Florida are sponsors, as shown here by Nick Holmes.



LOOKING GOOD: Steve Moran in the first, mainly red, Draper Tools sponsored kit.



HANDY ANDY: Andy Townsend in Saints action in 1985/86.



END OF THE LINE: For Saints' red kit with shadowy stripes.



SUPER AL: With Hummel as kit makers Alan Shearer sports the new look.



HEADS HE WINS: Paul Rideout heads home against West Ham in 1988/89.

SEE MONDAY'S ECHO FOR SAINTS V FOREST REACTION

Saints Spotlight

From black and white



NEW KIT, NEW STAR: Matt Le Tissier starting out a brilliant career.



TALL PAUL: Paul Rideout in action in the more traditional red and white stripes.



LE GOD: Le Tissier goes from V-Neck to collared shirt.



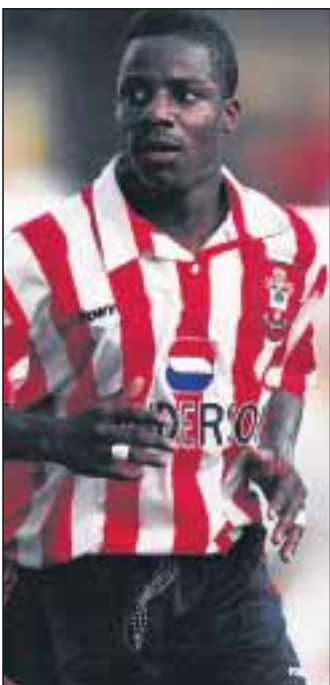
FLOWING LOCKS: Glenn Cockerill charges forward in 1992/93.



ALL CHANGE: In 1993 Pony start making the kit, Dimplex sponsor, Ken Monkou wears.



QUICK ROTATION: The days of keeping a kit for several years are long gone.



TO BE FRANK: It's Frankie Bennett in Sanderson sponsored new shirt in 1995/96.



EGIL SOARS: Egil Ostenstad celebrates scoring against Manchester United.



DELL ICON: The wonderful Matt Le Tissier, with black collar, in 1997/98.



BRIDGE BUILDING: Wayne Bridge holds off a challenge against Coventry.

SEE MONDAY'S ECHO FOR ALL THE WEEKEND'S FOOTBALL NEWS

Saints Spotlight

to full red and white



SUPER DEAN: Saints own label, Friends Provident sponsor, worn by Dean Richards.



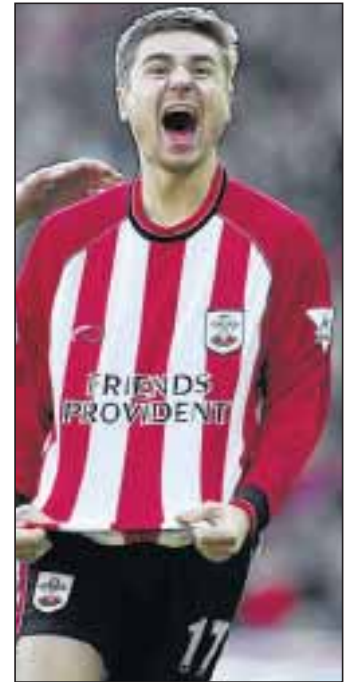
MORE STRIPES: Thin stripes are back, as shown by Anders Svensson.



LEFT FOOT FORWARD: Wayne Bridge makes a run for it.



LIFE ON MARS: Chris Marsden celebrates his iconic FA Cup goal against Wolves.



LATVIAN HITMAN: Marian Pahars shows off his round collared shirt.



STANDING TALL: Peter Crouch enjoys scoring against Portsmouth.



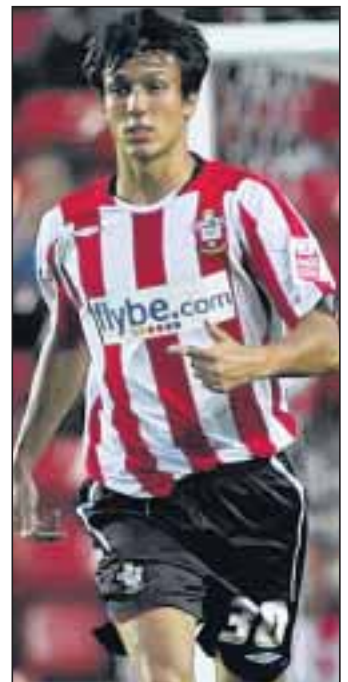
THEO FLYING: Theo Walcott causes a splash in another new shirt.



YOUNG TALENT: Thick stripes are back for Gareth Bale.



STERN TEST: There's a goal to be celebrated by Stern John.



FIRST TIME AROUND: Jack Cork during his Saints loan spell.

Saints Spotlight

Sashes and flashes



AWAY DAY BLUES: An unusual change to the away kit, as worn by Wayne Bridge.



DIRECT RUNNING: Marian Pahars, all in blue, pushes on with the ball.



THE BEAT GOES ON: James Beattie in yellow and blue away kit.



BACK IN BLACK: Anders Svensson in black away kit.



OUR CLAU: Claus Lundekvam on an away trip to Liverpool.



FLYING HIGH: Saints have twice appeared in FA Cup finals in yellow and blue.



CROUCHING TIGER: Peter Crouch in two-tone blue away kit.



FULL FORCE: Nigel Quashie battles for the ball against Leeds.



RUDI HECK: Rudi Skacel is fuming in yellow kit.



FULL BLACK: Gareth Bale makes a break for it.

CALL SPORTS EDITOR SIMON CARTER ON 023 8042 4515

Saints Spotlight

as Saints experiment



EUELL DO: Jason Euell in a very smart yellow and blue strip.



THREE'S COMPANY: Stern John sporting a white Saints third kit.



GREY DAY: Jack Cork in the Umbro made grey kit.



LIVELY LALLANA: Adam Lallana in another variation of yellow and blue.



GOAL MACHINE: Rickie Lambert in the 2009/10 campaign.



BARE CHEST: No sponsor on the 125 year black away kit.



SASH STAR: Alex Chamberlain in the 125 year celebration kit.



UP TO DATE: Adam Lallana sports this season's home kit.



FIRST TO THE PUNCH: A rare black kit with new sponsor's logo.



GOAL GETTER: David Connolly in this season's away kit.

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SOUTHERN
Daily Echo

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10 for Sunday Independent
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Mark an X with a ballpoint pen on the picture where you consider that position to be – clear rubber stamps and self adhesive labels will also be accepted.

Every coupon will be carefully examined and the jackpot prize will be paid to the entrant whose cross marks the exact centre of the ball when the photograph was taken.

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The nearest-miss prize will be paid out to the competitor whose cross is nearest to the centre of the ball when there is no jackpot winner.

When a jackpot has been won the next week's prize reverts back to £6,000 and the nearest-miss prize at £1,000.

If the Jackpot is not won after 45 weeks, when standing at £50,000, three nearest miss prizes will be awarded totalling £24,000 – with a first prize of £12,000, a second prize of £8,000 and a third prize of £4,000.

The jackpot for the following week will be £26,000 with £1,000 being added each week. The nearest miss prize will be £2,000 with £50 added each week until the jackpot prize reaches £50,000.

If there is still no entry showing the exact centre of the ball, the process is repeated until there is an exact centre of the ball winner.

If there is more than one winner the jackpot will be shared and, similarly, if there is more than one runner-up the nearest miss prize will also be shared.

RESULTS



CLOSING DATE FOR POSTAL ENTRIES
Wednesday,
14 September
2011
Names of winners will be published on
**Saturday,
17 September
or Sunday
18 September
2011**

An incident in a Bournemouth v Bristol Rovers match

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September 10, 2011

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12 noon Tuesday
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Closing time Monday

Deadlines for selected newsagents collection boxes as listed in:
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closing time Monday
Southern Daily Echo
10.00 am Tuesday
Dorset Echo
Closing time Monday

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Mrs P Bradick, Brighton, East Sussex
who wins the Runner Up prize of £1,150

The following competitors each receive a consolation prize of **£15**

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Mrs J Braybrook, Southampton, Hants	Mr A Lisle, Southampton, Hants
Miss A Buckley, Southampton, Hants	Mr B Martin, Chandlers Ford, Hants
Mr J Burt, Ringwood, Hants	Mrs M McDonald, Southampton, Hants
Mrs R Coles, Blackfield, Hants	Mrs P Nicholson, Dursley, Hants
Mrs J Cutler, Southampton, Hants	Ms S Oldfield, Winchester, Hants
Mrs M Evans, Fair Oak, Hants	Mr I Purves, Southampton, Hants
Mrs B Frankland, Southampton, Hants	Mr T Thomas, Southampton, Hants
Mr J Franklin, Southampton, Hants	Mr J Veitch, Waltham Chase, Hants
Mrs J Jefferies, Southampton, Hants	Mrs J Wiseman, Southampton, Hants

Rules

1. You are allowed a minimum of 60 crosses and a maximum of 325 per coupon. Coupons with 326 or more will be disqualified. Entries altered defaced or mutilated will be invalid. Crosses must be distinct and separate. **2.** Competitors may submit as many coupons as they wish. Members of a family can send their entries in one envelope with a covering postal order or cheque. **3.** No responsibility can be accepted for entries delayed, lost or mislaid. Proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery. **4.** Payment may be made by postal order or cheque for the correct amount payable to Newsquest, and crossed 'X' Co.' Stamps **will not** be accepted in payment. **5.** A competitor cannot win more than one share of the prize money across all titles each week. **6.** The Editor's decision on winning entry or entries and matters relating to this competition is binding in honour only. **NO CORRESPONDENCE CAN BE ENTERED INTO.** **7.** Employees of NEWSQUEST Media Group and subsidiary companies and members of their families are not eligible to enter the competition. **8.** Address entries to FTB PO Box 24 Competitions, Southampton SO16 9ZD in a sealed envelope. Understamped entries are not accepted. **9.** Prize monies are held for and on behalf of winners. **10.** Do not send cash in the post. **11.** Winners will be required to participate in publicity.



Saints Spotlight

SAINTS' FIRST TEAM FIXTURES AND RESULTS 2011/12



2

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13

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AUGUST

Sat 6 Leeds H
Tues 9 Torquay (CC1) H
Sat 13 Barnsley A
Tues 16 Ipswich A
Sat 20 Millwall H
Sat 27 Leicester A
Tues 30 Swindon (CC2) A

W 3-1 Davis
W 4-1 Bialkowski
W 1-0 Davis
W 5-2 Davis
W 1-0 Davis
L 2-3 Davis
W 3-1 Bialkowski

Richardson
Butterfield
Richardson
Richardson
Richardson
Richardson
Richardson

Fonte
Seaborne
Fonte
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Fonte
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Seaborne

Martin
Martin
Seaborne
Seaborne
Seaborne
Seaborne
Martin

Harding
Dickson
Harding
Harding
Harding
Harding
Harding

Do Prado**
De Ridder** 1
Do Prado*
Do Prado*
Do Prado 1
Do Prado**
Holmes**

Hammond*** 1
Chaplow 1
Hammond
Hammond
Hammond
Hammond
Schneiderlin

Cork
Schneiderlin
Cork
Cork
Cork
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Cork

Lallana 1
Holmes*
Lallana***
Lallana*** 2
Lallana**
Lallana
Lallana

Lambert
Lambert 1
Lambert
Lambert 2
Lambert
Lambert
Forte* 1

Connolly* 1
Do Prado***
Connolly** 1
Connolly** 1
Connolly***
Connolly 1
Do Prado*** 1

De Ridder*
Lallana*
Chaplow*
Schneiderlin*
Schneiderlin*
Schneiderlin*
Lambert* 1

Chaplow**
Hammond**
De Ridder**
Fox**
Fox**
De Ridder**
Hammond**

Schneiderlin***
Forte*** 1
Schneiderlin***
De Ridder***
De Ridder***
Fox***
Hoskins***

SEPTEMBER

Sat 10 Notts Forest H
Sun 18 Birmingham H
Sat 24 Burnley A
Wed 28 Cardiff A

OCTOBER

Sat 1 Watford H
Sat 15 Derby A
Tues 18 West Ham H
Sat 22 Reading A
Sat 29 Middlesbrough H

NOVEMBER

Tues 1 Peterborough H
Sat 5 Coventry A
Sat 19 Brighton H
Sat 26 Bristol City A
Tues 29 Hull H

DECEMBER

Sat 3 Doncaster A
Sat 10 Blackpool H
Sun 18 Portsmouth A
Mon 26 Crystal Palace H
Fri 30 Bristol City H

JANUARY

Mon 2 Brighton A
Sat 14 Notts Forest A
Sat 21 Leicester H
Tues 31 Cardiff H

FEBRUARY

Sat 4 Birmingham A
Sat 11 Burnley H
Tues 17 West Ham A
Sat 18 Derby H
Sat 25 Watford A

MARCH

Sat 3 Leeds A
Tues 6 Ipswich H
Sat 10 Barnsley H
Sat 12 Millwall A
Tues 20 Hull A
Sat 24 Doncaster H
Sat 31 Blackpool A

APRIL

Sat 7 Portsmouth H
Mon 9 Crystal Palace A
Sat 14 Reading H
Tues 17 Peterborough A
Sat 21 Middlesbrough A
Sat 28 Coventry H

Finding value for money



A VIEW FROM THE STANDS
with Saints fan Dan Kerins

DOMESTIC football has returned after what many see as the sickly sweet methadone of international fixtures.

In England, most football fans appear to put club before country, not least because of the extremes of unbelievable hype and hugely over-the-top disappointment when reality hits home.

The most recent international break was swiftly followed by a meeting of the European Club Association (ECA), which is essentially a reformation of the defunct G-14, but now with a total of 201 clubs rather than 18.

What they are demanding may be welcomed by many fans in this country, who no longer feel love and excitement for the international game.

Essentially, they want fewer international matches each year and more revenue from FIFA and UEFA tournaments, namely the World Cup and European Championships.

This year, including the cancelled Holland game, England have nine fixtures – around a third less than other nations such as Spain, Italy and Brazil – and club's don't really get anything out of it, other than a risk of injuries and compensation should that occur.

They argue the schedule is already too congested and that meaningless fixtures should be culled. The thing is, they have no problem creating more meaningless fixtures for themselves. Aside from summer tours to the Far East or North America, the Champions League is a shining beacon of the clubs' abilities to play the tune.

I'm sure most fans would rather a return to the old straight knock-out for-

mat of the European Cup, fought between bona-fide Champions, rather than wasting half the season with meaningless games as Man United's B team take on the second best team in Switzerland.

International football for me, should still be the pinnacle of the game.

Without an ability to be partisan, football loses a certain edge. A great game will always be a great game, but for every Liverpool v Alaves from 2001, you get two like AC Milan and Juventus in 2003.

Even when Man United and Chelsea squared up in the 2008 final in Moscow, other than the fans concerned who really cared which side won?

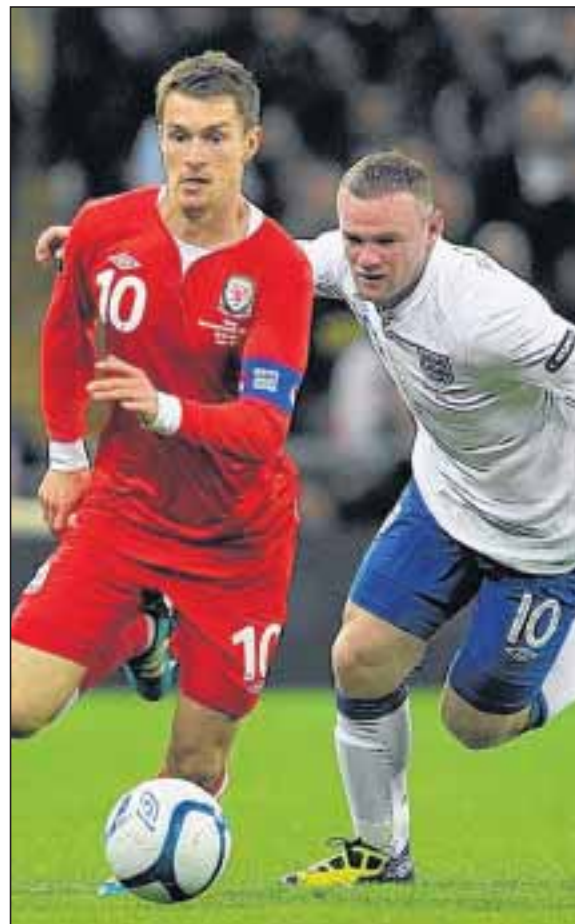
International football however, brings together a far wider cross section of supporters. Go beyond Hampshire and watching a Saints game in a pub can be a fairly lonely experience. Watching an England (or in my case Ireland) match however is a very different experience. Communal, even.

Ultimately, the ECA are only trying to protect their financial interests. Football as entertainment for supporters barely even registers on the radar.

International football, like the domestic version, can be brilliant, enthralling, turgid and dull. It has its problems – not least FIFA itself – but that doesn't mean it should be cast aside or hacked down to a shadow of what it was.

The ECA may have the power at the moment, but that doesn't mean we should lose other forms of the game which those clubs deem pointless, be they international matches or the League Cup.

Football is entertainment for fans, and the sooner the people in the sport at least try to acknowledge that, the better it'll be for everyone.



ENTERTAINING?: Action from England's 1-0 win over Wales at Wembley on Tuesday.

	LA	LG	CA	CG	CSA	CSG
KELVIN DAVIS	5	0	0	0	229	0
BARTOSZ BIALKOWSKI	0	0	2	0	33(1)	0
TOMMY FORECAST	0	0	0	0	0	0
DANNY BUTTERFIELD	0	0	1	0	36(3)	0
FRAZER RICHARDSON	5	0	1	0	23(7)	0
DAN HARDING	5	1	1	0	933	4
RYAN DICKSON	0	0	1	0	18(10)	1
BEN REEVES	0	0	0	0	0	0
JOSE FONTE	5	0	0	0	73	7
RADHI JAIDI	0	0	0	0	63(1)	4
AARON MARTIN	1	0	2	0	11(4)	0
DAN SEABORNE	4	0	2	0	35(15)	0

	LA	LG	CA	CG	CSA	CSG
STEVE DE RIDDER	0(5)	0	1	1	1(5)	1
RICHARD CHAPLOW	0(2)	0	1	1	41(8)	7
DEAN HAMMOND	5	1	0(2)	0	94(3)	11
JACK CORK	5	0	1	0	30(1)	0
MORGAN SCHNEIDERLIN	0(5)	0	2	0	93(20)	1
ADAM LALLANA	5	3	1(1)	0	131(19)	35
LEE HOLMES	0	0	2	0	17(14)	2
RICKIE LAMBERT	5	2	1(1)	2	106(4)	58
LEE BARNARD	0	0	0	0	44(19)	24
GULY DO PRADO	5	1	2	1	33(12)	13
DAVID CONNOLLY	5	4	0	0	23(20)	15
JONATHAN FORTE	0	0	1(1)	2	3(9)	4

	LA	LG	CA	CG	CSA	CSG
RYAN DOBLE	0	0	0	0	0	0
DANNY FOX	0(3)	0	0	0	0(3)	0
SAM HOSKINS	0	0	0(1)	0	0(1)	0

KEY: LA: league appearances. LG: league goals. CA: cup appearances. CG: cup goals. CSA: career Saints appearances. CSG: career Saints goals.

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Cherries/Pompey Spotlight



CHERRIES 2011/12

August

6 Charlton (A)L 0-3
 9 Dagenham (H, CC) ...W 5-0
 Taylor 2, Pugh, Cooper, Feeney
 13 Sheff Wed (H)W 2-0
 Barrett, Arter
 16 Stevenage (H)L 1-3
 Arter
 20 Carlisle (A)L 1-2
 Arter (pen)
 27 Walsall (H)L 0-2

September

3 Notts County (A)L 1-3
 10 Chesterfield (H)L 0-3
 13 Leyton Orient(A)
 17 Exeter(A)
 24 Hartlepool(H)

October

1 Tranmere(A)
 8 Rochdale(H)
 15 MK Dons(A)
 22 Bury(H)
 25 Colchester(A)
 29 Preston(A)

November

5 Scunthorpe(H)
 19 Wycombe(A)
 26 Oldham(H)

December

10 Huddersfield(A)
 17 Sheff Utd(H)
 26 Brentford(A)
 31 Yeovil(A)

January

2 Wycombe(H)
 7 Walsall(A)
 14 Notts County(H)
 21 Tranmere(H)
 28 Chesterfield(A)

February

4 Exeter(H)
 11 Hartlepool(A)
 14 Leyton Orient(H)
 18 Rochdale(A)
 25 MK Dons(H)

March

3 Charlton(H)
 6 Stevenage(A)
 10 Sheff Wed(A)
 17 Carlisle(H)
 20 Brentford(H)
 24 Oldham(A)
 31 Yeovil(H)

April

7 Sheff Utd(A)
 9 Huddersfield(H)
 14 Bury(A)
 21 Colchester(H)
 28 Scunthorpe(A)

May

5 Preston(H)

Bradbury tips new boy Wes to shine



NEW MAN: Wes Thomas was unveiled as Cherries' new signing yesterday.

BOSS Lee Bradbury is backing new recruit Wes Thomas to maintain his rich vein of goalscoring form when he steps into League One with Cherries.

Bradbury yesterday ended his exhaustive search for a striker when he signed Thomas from League Two leaders Crawley Town – initially for a maximum 93 days on an emergency loan.

The 24-year-old will be available for Cherries until December 10 but will then have to sit out until the deal is made permanent in

the January transfer window.

Cherries have agreed an undisclosed six-figure fee with the Red Devils and Thomas will eventually pen a two-and-a-half year contract.

Thomas trained yesterday morning with Bradbury's squad at Canford and was in contention to make his debut in today's League One clash with Chesterfield at the Seward Stadium.

Boss Bradbury made his move for the Enfield-based frontman after watching him in

action during Crawley's midweek win over Cherries in the Football Combination. Formerly with Dagenham & Redbridge, Thomas earned a lucrative move to Crawley after netting 19 goals for League Two strugglers Cheltenham last season.

Bradbury said: "He had been on my list of summer targets but ended up going to Crawley.

"I think he was disappointed there because he had not playing. There are two lads in front of him who are scoring regularly and

they are top of their league.

"I watched him in the reserve game on Tuesday and then spoke to (Crawley manager) Steve Evans about him. I saw it as a good opportunity to make an approach and Steve reluctantly agreed to let him go.

"He works very hard and defends from the front. He is quick, strong and has a good goalscoring record, albeit in League Two. I think he will be more than capable of getting goals in this division with his athleticism and work rate."

CHERRIES IN CRISIS

CHERRIES' poor start to the season escalated into a full-blown crisis after they were subjected to a crushing home defeat by fellow strugglers Chesterfield today.

The Spireites arrived at the Seward Stadium bidding to end their worst start to a season for 110 years and departed with their first victory of the campaign.

Defeat condemned Cherries to a fifth successive league reverse for the first time since 2006 – former boss Kevin Bond's first five games at the helm.

Despite having the better of the opening period, Lee Bradbury's men reached the break trailing to Alex Mendy's headed goal after 32 minutes.

However, second-half goals from Craig Westcarr and Leon Clarke knocked the stuffing out of the hosts, leaving them deep in the relegation mire just a month into the season.

New loan signing Wes Thomas from Crawley was handed his Cherries debut as boss Bradbury made three changes to his starting line-up. Strikers Thomas and Ryan Doble came in for Steve Fletcher and Lyle Taylor, while fit-again Scott Malone replaced Warren Cummings at left-back.

Thomas showed some neat touches during the early stages and linked well with Doble, even if goalscoring chances were at a premium.

The first opportunity fell to Shaun Cooper midway through the first half, his effort from a well-worked

CHERRIES 0 CHESTERFIELD 3



WORRIED: Cherries boss Lee Bradbury saw his side slip to another home defeat today.

corner cannoning off a defender and landing at the feet of Marc Pugh.

And after the midfielder had sized up a shot, his drive just cleared the crossbar, with Spireites goalkeeper Tommy Lee possibly touching it

over. Adam Barrett arrived to meet a Pugh corner, only for his volley to strike Lee Johnson before Nathan Byrne's stinging 20-yarder flew over the crossbar.

Disaster struck for Cherries when Chesterfield opened the scoring fol-

lowing their first meaningful foray on the hosts' goal after 32 minutes.

Leon Clarke, signed by the Spireites from Swindon during the week, delivering a hanging cross into the danger area and Mendy powerfully headed home at the far post.

Byrne then saw a close-range snapshot blocked by Jonathan Grounds before the Spurs loanee drew a fine save from Lee after letting fly from just inside the 18-yard box.

Pugh just failed to connect after Doble's angled drive had flashed across the face of the goalmouth before Shaun MacDonald's timely tackle denied Danny Whitaker a shooting chance.

Lee blocked Pugh's drive at the start of the second half before the Chesterfield goalkeeper saved from Thomas after the striker had tried his luck from distance.

Chesterfield doubled their lead when Westcarr made the most of some non-existent marking before finishing well with a left-foot shot into the top corner after 59 minutes.

A double substitution saw Steve Fletcher and Jayden Stockley replace Byrne and Doble before a stunning save from Lee prevented Pugh halving the arrears.

Clarke made it 3-0 when he touched home Westcarr's low cross in the 70th minute before Mendy went close to adding a fourth with a glancing header.

Pugh continued to be thwarted by Lee and the Chesterfield defence, although Cooper's late headed clearance denied Westcarr in the closing stages.

Cherries/Pompey Spotlight

Hammers stun ten-man Blues

WEST Ham kicked off life without Scott Parker with an enthralling 4-3 victory against 10-man Portsmouth at Upton Park – their first home win in more than six months.

The reigning Football Writers Association player of the year joined Tottenham on transfer deadline day, but the Hammers responded with a spirited performance in which debutant Henri Lansbury and goalkeeper Robert Green shone.

After the visitors took the lead through a Luke Varney effort that deflected off Carlton Cole, West Ham equalised a minute later through former Portsmouth midfielder Matthew Taylor's free-kick.

Despite the Hammers dominating first-half proceedings, they had Green to thank for pulling off a number of good saves before Lansbury netted eight minutes into the second period.

Portsmouth equalised in the 60th minute after David Norris' header was adjudged to the cross the line, but then had skipper Liam Lawrence sent off for a second bookable offence.

STRUGGLED

Steve Cotterill's side visibly struggled with 10 men as a Mark Noble penalty and a superb Cole header secured West Ham a fourth win of the season, although it was tempered slightly by Frederic Piquionne's red card and a Greg Halford penalty in stoppage time.

Hammers boss Sam Allardyce handed a debut to on-loan Arsenal starlet Lansbury and named fellow new boys David Bentley and Sam Baldock on the bench.

The visitors named Benjani Mwaruware in attack after Dave Kitson fell ill, while Aaron Mokoena replaced Joel Ward in the line-up.

The match kicked off at quiet a tempo and Portsmouth took an eighth-minute lead as Varney's wayward effort from Lawrence's corner deflected in off Cole.

The home faithful responded with a hearty rendition of I'm Forever Blowing Bubbles and were celebrating an equaliser just one minute after falling behind.

After Jason Pearce upended Cole

WEST HAM 4 POMPEY 3



ON TARGET: Greg Halford netted twice for Pompey in their defeat at West Ham.

on the edge of the box, Taylor curled in a sumptuous-looking free-kick only for replays to show a slight deflection helped the ball home.

West Ham looked invigorated by the equaliser and dominated the remainder of the first period, with skipper Kevin Nolan, Cole and Joey O'Brien all going close.

Despite the east Londoners' dominance, Allardyce's side almost came a cropper from another corner in the 39th minute.

Green was forced into a superb reaction save to thwart Pearce's goalbound header, before the Hammers defence scrambled the ball out of the ensuing melee.

Minutes later the England goalkeeper was forced into another fantastic save, preventing Erik Huseklepp's low drive with an outstretched leg.

Green's hard work looked to have paid dividends eight minutes into the second half when Lansbury pounced on a loose ball in the box to fire a low shot that just bobbed over the line after taking a deflection off the underside of Pearce.

RETURNED

Portsmouth, though, returned to the attack undeterred and equalised through a Norris header that looked to have crossed the line before Benjani made sure with a header of his own.

The visitors continued to press but were reduced to 10 men in the 67th minute when Lawrence received a second yellow card for a lunge at substitute Bentley.

Six minutes later Lansbury earned the home side a penalty by flicking the ball into Pearce's hand, allowing Noble to step up and strike home from the spot.

West Ham wrapped up the victory in the 76th minute when Taylor fired in a superb ball that Cole managed to head home.

Lansbury almost grabbed a second as the clock wound down, before substitute Piquionne was red-carded against his former club for raising his hands to Greg Halford off the ball deep into stoppage time.

Despite the clock winding down, Portsmouth reduced the deficit to one goal with the last kick of the game as Halford scored after Tal Ben Haim was brought down in the box.

PORTSMOUTH 2011/12

August

6 Middlesbrough (A) .D 2-2
Norris, Varney
9 Barnet (H, CC)L 0-1
13 Brighton (H)L 0-1
16 Reading (H)W 1-0
Kitson
20 Bristol City (A) . . .D 0-0
27 Cardiff (H)D 1-1
Kanu

September

10 West Ham (A)L 3-4
17 Hull(A)
24 Blackpool(H)
27 Peterborough(H)

October

1 Leeds(A)
15 Barnsley(H)
18 Ipswich(A)
22 Doncaster(H)
29 Derby(A)

November

1 Crystal Palace(A)
5 Nottm Forest(H)
19 Watford(A)
26 Leicester(H)
29 Birmingham(A)

December

3 Coventry(H)
10 Burnley(A)
17 Southampton(H)
26 Millwall(A)
31 Leicester(A)

January

2 Watford(H)
14 West Ham(H)
21 Cardiff(A)
31 Peterborough(A)

February

4 Hull(H)
11 Blackpool(A)
14 Ipswich(H)
18 Barnsley(A)
25 Leeds(H)

March

3 Middlesbrough(H)
6 Reading(A)
10 Brighton(A)
17 Bristol City(H)
20 Birmingham(H)
24 Coventry(A)
31 Burnley(H)

April

7 Southampton(A)
9 Millwall(H)
14 Doncaster(A)
17 Crystal Palace(H)
21 Derby(H)
28 Nottm Forest(A)

SEE MONDAY'S ECHO FOR MORE CHERRIES/POMPEY NEWS

Non-league Action

FA VASE (1ST QUAL RD): Totton & Eling 2 Cowes 3 (aet)

T&E FALL TO EXTRA TIME VASE DEFEAT

Wendy Gee

wendy.gee@dailyecho.co.uk

NON-LEAGUE REPORTER

TOTTON & Eling's hopes of a money-spinning FA Vase run was shattered by a 3-2 extra time defeat by Isle of Wight underdogs Cowes Sports at Little Testwood Farm this afternoon.

The Millers were without unavailable duo Steve Marwood and Paddy James to face their Sydenhams One visitors.

Predictably it was the Premier Division hosts who started the better with Terry Cox blasting over from distance.

Then skipper Steve Jenkin twice delivered dangerously from the right – his first cross just evading the on-rushing Craig Feeney and the second gathered by keeper Chris Norris.

As the game opened up Totton keeper Sam Webb saved well from James Wykes and then Totton went straight up the other end where Jenkin hit the base of the post.

But, for all their neat approach play, it was a route one goal that put the Millers ahead – Craig Feeney chasing a long all and beating the keeper one-on-one.

It was almost two on 26 minutes but Jenkin's fierce shot was brilliantly headed off the line by big defender Charlie Allen after the Millers' skipper had been played in by ex-Saint Jo Tessem.

Cowes, though, competed well in midfield and equalised on 33 minutes when Wykes played in Dominic Burbridge to fire an angled shot past Webb from the edge of the area with Totton looking in vain for an offside flag.

With the Millers getting slack, more neat combination play between Wykes



FOUL: Totton's Eddie Smith is brought down.

Picture: Paul Collins

and Burbridge resulted in the latter firing well over on the angle.

Both teams were committed to attack and an end-to-end finish to the half saw Cowes' Tom Dye test Webb with an awkward high cross which the keeper gathered at the second attempt.

Then Totton broke quickly and, from another good Jenkin cross, Feeney's

header span wide of the near post.

The Islanders piled on the pressure at the start of the second half with substitutes Max Draper fizzing a shot just over after more good play by the excellent Wykes.

Then Totton were undone by a Wyke cross from the left and just managed to scramble the ball away from Leighton

Steechley-Price at the far post. Jenkin, always a useful outlet on the right for Totton, was then picked out beyond the back post but couldn't keep his shot down sufficiently to find the far corner.

Cowes still looked dangerous and sent Burbridge scampering down the left but the forward ran out of options and screwed his shot wide.

Totton were struggling to take a grip on the game but finally managed to reclaim the lead following a 70th minute free kick.

Cowes' Craig Insley was booked for chopping down Jon Brock in full flight.

The Millers took the kick quickly, playing in Tessem who found substitute Eddie Smith on the far side of the area.

He, in turn, found Cox who slid it into the path of Feeney to bag his second goal of the match.

The Millers gained confidence from that goal and deserved another when Smith cut in from the left and unleashed a terrific shot which was bending inside the near post until Norris got both hands to it and turned it away.

But just when it looked as if Totton had done enough to edge a tight tie, they were pegged back by a last-gasp leveller – Burbridge knocking down a deep free kick at the far post for Insley to stab the ball home and send the game into extra time.

Totton did everything but score in extra time, with sub Smith having one shot well blocked by keeper Norris and a follow-up cleared off the line in quick succession.

Smith was then denied by Norris's feet at the near post before centre-back Craig Vigar headed against the upright from a corner.

But, cruelly, it was Cowes who snatched victory at the death when Lee Davis's low, angled drive from the left evaded everyone on its way into the far bottom corner.

Whites draw at Bromley

**BROMLEY 2
SALISBURY 2**

SALISBURY City will feel as though it was two points dropped as they came away from a game they dominated at Bromley with nothing to show for their efforts.

The hosts went ahead on 27 minutes when Gareth Williams netted from the halfway line after Conor Gough in the Salisbury goal had seen his clearance land at the striker's feet.

Six minutes later Dan Fitchett created Salisbury's first effort on goal when he cut in from the left and brought a good save from home keeper Dean Santangelo.

A minute later the Whites were back on terms when Adam Kelly was fouled in the box and Jake Reid blasted home the spot kick.

Five minutes before the break Bromley went ahead as Salifou Ibrahima fired in from close range.

Bromley went down to ten men on 52 minutes when Nathan Green was dismissed for a second yellow card and Matt Wright netted a leveller in time added on.

Dartford defeat Spitfires

**DARTFORD 3
EASTLEIGH 0**

EASTLEIGH fell to a 3-0 away defeat at Eastleigh.

A dull first half came to life when an excellent cross from the left from Adam Green found Richard Graham, the former Eastleigh winger, whose ball set up Charlie Sheringham son of former England international, Teddy Sheringham, and he made no mistake from inside the area.

Sheringham also flicked on a cross but Barfoot in the Eastleigh goal was just able to beat Lee Noble to the ball.

Sheringham made it 2-0 in the second half and Eastleigh's misery was completed in injury time when a deep Danny Harris cross was deflected in off an eastleigh defender to make it 3-0.

**BRACKLEY 0
AFC TOTTON 3**

SOUTHERN Premier League leaders AFC Totton produced the smash-and-grab raid of the season so far to defeat nearest challengers Brackley Town at St James Park.

Totton were put under early pressure, with Brackley wide-man Tom Winters delivering crosses from the left which caused the visitors problems.

Totton are flying high

On three minutes Stags keeper Grant Porter pushed away Franny Green's effort and three minutes later saved well from Elliott Sandy.

Against the run of play, Totton took an eighth minute lead when Nathaniel Sherborne was tripped in the area by James Clifton and

Mike Gosney converted the spot kick.

Midway through the first period Brackley went close when Green's shot was cleared off the line by Jonathan Davies.

Just before the half-time whistle the home side's Owen Story was put clear but fired

his shot wide. The second half started in a similar fashion to the first, with Brackley creating a number of chances.

Sandy twice went close, including seeing a goal-line clearance by Carl Pettefer.

Just before the hour, the Stags doubled their lead when lone striker Sherborne was

put through and tucked his shot under Jon Bond.

On 71 minutes the home side's Green received a straight red card for a challenge on Ryan Hill.

Totton continued to deal with everything Brackley could throw at them and victory was sealed in the final minute when substitute Aidan Lewis and Michael Charles combined for Charles to drive home past Bond.

Non-league Football

Railway continue to steam ahead



HAYWARD SUNDAY LEAGUE

Branksome Railway rattled in six for the second week running in the HAYWARD SUNDAY PREMIER LEAGUE when they swept New Milton Town aside 6-0 with goals from Dan Manuel (2), Sam Purdy (2), Ashley Boyt, and Tom Willis.

Dan Whitthorn was the hat-trick hero when Priory Quays came from 3-0 down to salvage a 4-4 draw with reigning champions Branksome Con. Gareth Brickhill was the other Priory scorer with Sam Thompson and Martin Warren bagging two apiece for the champs.

East Christchurch SSC were 5-0 winners against TX United thanks to Alan Etherton, David Saunders (pen), Alex Rossi, and a couple of goals from substitute Matt Justice.

Meanwhile, in the other Premier League game, Nathan Saxby netted for West Moors SSC but they had to settle for a point when Jake Ormond earned Queens Park Rovers a 1-1 draw.

Foresters Arms began their DIVISION ONE campaign with a 5-1 triumph over Parley Sports courtesy of Bill Stride, Tom Man, Aaron Duncan, Andy Saxton, and an own goal.

Terry Larcombe scored all three goals in Lovitt's 3-0 victory over Rias in DIVISION TWO and Redhill were also 3-0 winners when Dominic Parnell (2) and Craig Miles account-



DIV 5 CLASH: Victoria Park Royals (red and white) tackle Hollies.

ed for Fernside Sports.

Jonny Haines led the way with a hat-trick when Ferndown Locomotive thrashed Boscombe Celtic 11-0 in DIVISION THREE with Luke Ayrton, Keith Jackson, Matt Groves, and Simon Ward adding two each.

Dave Cavill and Dan Nixon both bagged hat-tricks for Bournemouth Sports in their 8-3 DIVISION FOUR triumph over Witchampton with the other two goals coming from Ben Martin.

Carling Sports were sunk by Max Ridd's four goal blast when Oakdale

Con emerged 5-0 winners with Gary Stephens also on target.

Jason Neal notched a hat-trick in Hollies' 7-2 triumph over Victoria Park Royals in DIVISION FIVE with the other goals coming via Steven Glover (2), Dave Mountford and an own goal.

Rockbourne larruped Alderney Manor 8-3 with goals from Jim Cheeseman (2), Jason Thorne (2), Chris Taylor (2), Paul Roberts and Simon Colborne.

Kings Arms Wallisdown are setting the pace in DIVISION SIX after Sacha Navarro scored all three

goals to subdue JS West Moors 3-1.

Dale Walters scored all four goals in A&T Athletic's 4-2 win over New Milton Borough while Jon Massey's hat-trick gave Kavell Reserves the edge 3-2 against Wimborne Magpies..

Josh Harper rattled in four when Newtown Rovers battered AS Muscliff 8-3 in DIVISION SEVEN with Shane Duggan (2), Adam Kent and Cody Hayman also on target.

Fiveways Rangers upended Shamrock 5-2 thanks to Phillip Lee's hat-trick and a couple of goals from Lee Cobb while Intellihouse were 5-3 winners against Vienna Windows Reserves thanks to Rob Callaghan's hat-trick and further goals from Mike Loder and Daniel Hayward.

Mount are three points clear at the top of DIVISION EIGHT after their 13-1 trouncing of Carling Sports Reserves thanks to Duncan Moody (2), Leigh Spencer (2), Mark Stapleton (2), Dave Barfoot, Rick Case, Dan Case and Matt Eves' four goal burst.

Despite netting through Charlie Arnold, an own goal, and a Dan Adlem hat-trick, Cranborne went down 6-5 to AFC Bransgore whose goals came via Ashley Cooper (2), Charlie Taylor, and an Ollie Galpin hat-trick.

Scott Mitchell and Kyle Greenwood both nabbed hat-tricks when Scott V crushed Talbot Rangers 11-0 in DIVISION NINE with Tom Milne (2), Lawrence Hardy, Gareth Wilson and Sean Warrington completing the rout.

HAYWARD SATURDAY LEAGUE

Double treble no Con

MARK Pudney and Mike Barber both grabbed hat-tricks when Richmond Park Con hammered Bournemouth Manor Reserves 10-0 in DIVISION TWO of the HAYWARD SATURDAY LEAGUE with Jamie Dawson (2), Dominic Parnell, and Sami Garcia completing the rout.

South Coast Demolition are the early pacesetters though after they accounted for Seyward Windows 5-2 courtesy of a Martin Edwards hat-trick and further goals from Kirk Tovey and Adrian Snell.

Ben Read's double strike gave Redlynch & Woodfalls United the verdict 3-1 against Allendale in the HAYWARD SATURDAY PREMIER DIVISION. Ben Britnell was the other Redlynch scorer with Dave Welstead replying for Allendale.

Ron Stalker struck for Trinidad but Bournemouth Electric shaded it 2-1 thanks to Liam McGlynn and Leigh Phillips while Bournemouth Manor and Hamworthy Recreation cancelled each other out in a 1-1 draw. Luke McArdle was the Manor marksman with Luke Dawe replying for the Hammers.

Chris Forbes netted for Twynham Rangers but they crashed to a second successive defeat in DIVISION ONE when Sturminster Marshall got the better of them 3-1 with goals from Will Gage (2) and Ryan Warener.

Bisterne Rangers are the early pacesetters in DIVISION THREE after their 5-1 triumph over Bournemouth Electric A. Luke Walker led the way with a hat-trick with Tom Faulkner and John White adding one each.

Pete Valinski rattled in four, including one from the penalty spot, in Redhill Rangers' 6-3 success against Downton Sports with Steve Thornley and Chris Vallory also on target.

AFC Pennington lead the way in DIVISION FOUR after Tom Jourdan, Daniel Swager, and Barry Ward gave them the upper hand 3-1 against Burley who replied through Phil Matthews.

Dan Pringle bagged a hat-trick when Magpies gave Twynham Rangers Reserves a 4-0 tonking with Rob Carter getting the other one.

Robert Cole and Sam Packham both plundered hat-tricks when Screw-It Carpentry walloped Bournemouth Manor A 10-1 in DIVISION FIVE with Steve Thornton (2), Martin Goodship, and Gary Daniel also on target.

Lower Parkstone CFC gave Alderholt Reserves an 8-2 drubbing in DIVISION SIX thanks to Ross Dominey's four goal blast, a Mark Cunningham brace, and a goal apiece from Andrew Cordial and Steve Mutton.

Brock face top opener

BROCKENHURST'S clash with Peter Symond's at Lymington Road is arguably the stand-out game in the opening round of Hampshire Sixth Form Colleges fixtures on Wednesday, 2pm.

Triple champions Itchen open their title defence away to Eastleigh, with Tauntons entertaining BCOT.

Fixtures: Brockenhurst v Peter Symond's, Eastleigh v Itchen, Havant v Totton, Poole Grammar v Bournemouth, Portsmouth v Alton, Sparsholt v South Downs, St Vincent v Barton Peveril, Tauntons v Basingstoke.



Panthers start well

ROMSEY Town Panthers first match of the season in the Tyro league under-13 section produced an 11-goal thriller against Pirelli Pirate Crusaders.

The Panthers, pictured, won 7-4, with five of their goal coming from livewire Joe Evans.

Panthers, who are sponsored by Greatbridge Motor Services, all impressed manager/secretary Pauline Carter.

She gave the man-of-the-match accolade to all of her team.

In a very enjoyable and exciting game to watch, both sides showed good skill and pace on the ball and the keepers were both kept very busy and made outstanding saves.

FOOTBALL RESULTS ROUND-UP ON MONDAY IN THE DAILY ECHO

Non-league Football



MEON VALLEY LEAGUE

Crook steals a march

MEONSTOKE got their season off to a flyer with an emphatic 8-1 victory over Crofton Saints. The Division Two clash saw the hosts canter to an easy triumph, with Tom Crook's goal the only salvation for Saints.

Elsewhere in the second-tier, AFC Fareham also enjoyed an impressive win as Wickham Dynamos were beaten 7-2, goals from Shaun Munce (2), Jason Blake, Luke Sweeny, Marc Miller and Spencer Weightman (2) putting Dynamos to the sword.

Milton Rovers Reserves saw off Baffins Milton Reserves 2-1 in a close encounter at Great Salterns, thanks to finishes from Ian Neill and Alex Croaker, whilst Hordean XI came away from Lotus XI with all three points after securing a 2-0 success.

Division Four champions Travaux got off to a perfect start to life in the third-tier, winning 8-1 away at Hedgeside. The visitors' fearsome strike-force of Ryan Jennings and Cameron Morgan did the damage, the former netting four with his partner helping himself to a hat-trick, as the new-boys ran riot.

Evan Waters also found the net for the visitors, with Sam Bruty scoring a consolation for the home side.

South Hants Glass and FC Medina enjoyed wins on their bow in the division, celebrating promotion with 5-3 and 5-2 wins over Armoury and Waterlooville Rovers respectively.

Ocean City Barons took the share of the spoils against Southwick Lions, coming out 4-1 victors, whilst Shelford Rovers went down 4-0 at home to Fareham United.

A late penalty save from SDC keeper Tim Riley saved a point against Cowplain AFC, as the two fought out an even goalless draw at Padnell Park.

In Division One, Milton Rovers drew first blood against last campaign's champions Baffins Milton. Oliver Watts, Chaz Gardner and Callum Grey all struck as the 2010-11 runners-up won 3-1 against their potential title-rivals.

New top-flight team Farlington Academicals shaded a seven-goal thriller away at Burridge AFC, edging out the hosts with a 4-3 win.

In Division Four, there was just the one game played, after Purbrook's trip to AFC Portchester was postponed.

The lorry delivering goalposts to the pitch in Fareham broke down, meaning both will have to wait another week to begin the new term.

There were no problems with the playing surface for AFC Swood though, as they kicked off their first season in men's football with a bang against Waterlooville Social Club Reserves.

The youthful Swood side cantered to a 5-1 success, with doubles from Danny Gregory and Dan Lucas, adding to a superb lob from Toby Farrier.

Lee Skinner had earlier equalised for Ville, but the hosts ran away with it in the second-half.

Bush can add to their three titles

THE League kicked off properly last weekend so as is tradition I will pin the tail on the donkey of who I think will be the winners and challengers this season.

I will do it by divisions as usual and beef it up with a few lightweight reasons why I have selected those unfortunates.

As always, apologies to those who feel I have missed them out when it is obvious to them I should have picked them and to those who resent being selected and had their trade secrets given away.

PREMIER: 1) Bush Hill, 2) Nursling, 3) Southampton University. Wild Card Forest Tn.

IT is difficult to see beyond the three-times champs adding a fourth title to their tally.

They have, however, lost the services of Paul Boucher to Michelmersh & T but will no doubt have an able deputy.

DREW SMITH SOUTHAMPTON LEAGUE by Rod Sutherland

Nursling will push them hard after they have picked up a couple of AFC Redbridge players including Henry Smith and Aiden Johnson.

Southampton University will be an unknown entity to start with but will be strong. Much will depend on how they deal with the physical side of local footy.

Forest Town have forged an alliance with Blackfield & Langley and will be using their main pitch. Don't rule out London Airways who excelled in their first season at the top and may continue where they left off?

SENIOR 1: 1) Netley Central Sports, 2) White Horse, 3) Lyndhurst. Wild card: Thornhill HK. **HAVING** watched Lyndhurst and White Horse battle to an impressive 3-3 draw, I have to say these two will be thereabouts. Wade Wilson was outstanding for Lyndhurst while the White Horse mid-

field and strike force look impressive.

I will, however, stick with Netley CS, who won the division last season in impressive style – provided they keep the same or similar squad.

Thornhill HK are just up from Junior 2 and have Billy Couzens in their ranks. He will score goals for fun which could lift them.

Both Hedge End Tn and Cadnam United could upset a few and sneak into the top spots but will have to be consistent.

JUNIOR 1: 1) AFC Grains, 2) Wombles, 3) Park Sports. Wild Card: East Boldre.

LEAGUE Cup finalists AFC Grains impressed me last season with their free flowing style – Rich Adames being their main marksman, and I take Wombles to be their chief rivals under the leadership of Dan Powell and a mix of ex AFC Hop lads including Charlie

Neocleous.

The leading pair from Junior 3 could challenge, provided they don't change squads too much.

East Boldre have lost a couple to White Horse, including keeper Phil McGann but, if an able replacement is found, who knows?

JUNIOR 2: 1) Chamberlayne Ath, 2) Questmap, 3) Solent Saints. Wild card: Hamble United.

CHAMBERLAYNE join us from the Sunday League, where they impressed.

Questmap will have a number of the Wheatshield Wands that won this division a couple of seasons ago under Adam Harland.

Solent Saints from the Solent University were a Cup team last season but fell behind in the league.

Lesson learned, they will do better this time around.

Hamble Utd are charter standard and are looking for long term progress. A good season could help their aims.

JUNIOR 3: 1) Riverside, 2) Forest Town Res, 3) Wellington. Wild card: Chandlers Ford Rangers.

THE Phillips road show will continue as Riverside take on all comers.

Old rivals Wellington will push them again but I take Forest Tn Res to squeeze in between them after taking the Junior 6 title last time out and reaching the League Cup semi final.

Chandlers Ford Rangers will have an ex Otterbourne fringe players look about them and may prove a surprise package.

JUNIOR 4: 1) Harefield, 2) West Totton, 3) AFC Gulf Western. Wild card: Good Companions.

HAREFIELD will likely field some ex Hare & Hound players along with their already useful squad who finished runners up in Junior 6.

West Totton will do well if they can remain consistent throughout the season.



LYNDHURST: Pictured left to right, back: Chris Eccles, Ryan Yeo, Rob Gill, Mitch Stanhome, Andy Trodd, Ashley Wilson, Dan Charrett, Wade Wilson. Front: Sean Hardcastle, Adam Jeffery, Kev Cutter, Matt Sturgess, Mark McCrindle, Anthony Rouse, Brett Wheeler. Missing from photo: Chris Astridge, Shaun New, Rob Metcalf & Craig Mason.

THIS WEEK'S NATIONAL AND LOCAL FIXTURES - PAGE 33

Non-league Football



WHITE HORSE: The Netley Marsh team are, left to right, back: Dean Lavelle, Scott Munday, David Vivier, Michael Storer, Gary Edwards, Colin Bath, Wayne Allen and Marc Price Front: Mike Vivier, Pete Sleep, Alan Skilton, Phil McGhan, Glen Maidment, Alex Parker and Stephen Lawrence.

AFC Gulf Western are new but have a good look about them. I ummed and ahred about the wild card – and eventually chose Good Companions over Chandler's Ford on the basis of their fine Cup run last season.

JUNIOR 5: 1) Freemantle AFC, 2) Hamble Utd Res, 3) Bitterne Pk Hotel. Wild card: Athletico Romsey.

FREEMANTLE have reformed and may have a couple of the team that worked their way up the leagues – but will be longer in the tooth.

Hamble Utd Res will be run by Steve Martin, formerly Southside Utd and will probably resemble that squad.

Bitterne Pk Hotel are a Sunday side and may do well in their first season with us?

Athletico Romsey have a fresh look with a number of

younger starters who may surprise themselves!

JUNIOR 6: 1) Coxford Jets, 2) SG Sports, 3) AFC Soton. Wild card: Burridge Village. Coxford will be able to pick a few players from other local teams who have folded. As long as they pick wisely they should succeed.

SG Sports are another new side as are AFC Soton. Newer teams tend to do well hence my selection.

For the wild card I pick Burridge Village who were with us last campaign and lost a lot of games by the odd goal in the early season but switched on by Xmas and finished a healthy mid table position.

If they can start as they finished they will improve on their placing.

VETERANS SECTION

VETERANS A: 1) Nursling, 2) Sporting BTC, 3) GE Aviation. Wild card:

Questmap.

HAVING won all four competitions last time out, I cannot pick anyone bar Nursling to continue in a similar vein.

As the only team to prevent Nursling defeating them in the league I believe Sporting BTC will again be their closest rivals.

For Aerostructures read GE Aviation. Champions the season before Nursling, will again be a force. New boys Questmap under Pete Harding's leadership could set the cat among the pigeons at the top end?

VETERANS B: 1) Locks

Heath, 2) Hedge End Rangers, 3) Northend Utd. Wild card: Langley Tavern.

SOME unknown quantities in this section.

New teams Locks Heath and Northend may have a slightly younger feel about them which makes a difference at this level.

Hedge End Rangers were ERA Supp Cup winners last season and may translate that into League form this time around.

Langley Tavern have added a second squad and brought in a number of useful signings from the Waterside area and may do better than wild cards!

VETERANS C: 1) Michelmersh & T, 2) Sporting BTC B, 3) Langley Manor B. Wild Card: Baddesley Pk.

SPORTING just missed out last season and I take them to go one better this time.

Michelmersh & T have golden boot winner Mark Turnbull in their ranks – with that goalscoring record they can only succeed.

The B teams of Langley Manor and Sporting BTC B, who have taken Mich & Tims Darren Gouch, will both do well while Baddesley Pk hovered just below along with Sholing B.



ALL SQUARE: Wade Wilson scores from the spot, above, to put Lyndhurst 3-2 up. Right: White Horse level at two each through Pete Sleep.

SATURDAY'S RESULTS/SCORERS

DREW SMITH SOTON FOOTBALL LEAGUE SCORERS SEPTEMBER 3

ROY WIGHTMAN JUNIOR LEAGUE CUP ROUND 1: Bitterne Park Hotel 0 South City Utd 3 (Pawel Bundzy 2, Siymon Wlosek), Coxford Jets 0 Hedge End Rangers Res 5 (Matt Hopkins 3, Alfie Steven, Jay Schwadler), Cricketers (Eastleigh) 1 (Tony Green) Langley Manor 3 a.e.t. (Charlie Cooke, Dave Babey, Pete Derrick).

EASTLEIGH RA VETERANS LEAGUE CUP PRELIM: RS Winchester 2 (Mark Elloway, Mark Green) Sporting BTC B 2 (Chris Weir, Darren Gouch)(RS Winch 3-1 on pens), Sholing B 1 (Stuart Foley) GE Aviation A 3 (Alan Smith, Mark Allen, Darren Smallbones).

EASTLEIGH RA VETERANS LEAGUE CUP ROUND 1: Redlynch & W Utd 4 (Alan Shields 2, Frank Halstead, Matt Shores) Royal Mail 0. **SENIOR PREMIER:** BTC Soton 0 Southampton University 3 (Harry Herbert, Yakubu, Tom Burton), Cutbush Athletic 4 (Greg Ainsworth 2, Tony Brown 2) AFC Hittingbury 4 (Will Lane 2, Michael Grey, Tom Sands), Forest Town 2 (Lee Alp, Tyler Betteridge) Bishopstoke WMC 0, London Airways 2 (Neil Barrett, Neil Lake) Comrades 3 (Jamie Wilson 2, Andy Spink), Nursling 1 (Henry Smith) Bush Hill 2 (Liam Keates, James Lavender).

SENIOR 1: BTC Soton Res 1 (Ben Titcombe) Hythe Aztecs 12 (Alex Waterman 4, Pete Burgess 4, Craig Harding 2, Dan Hosey, Wayne Male, Mick Anderson), Burridge AFC 1 (Sam Schwadler) Netley CS Res 1 (Jason Buncle), Cadnam United 2 (Liam Hanlon, Paul Burnett) Thornhill HK 2 (Lee Osborne pen, Daryl Hobbs), Durley Res 2 (Alan Darling 2) Michelmersh & T Res 1 (Simon Tate), Hedge End Town 5 (Stuart Seaborne 2, Ken Rowe, Isaac Hill, Steve Deacon) Comrades Res 0.

JUNIOR 1: East Boldre 0 Park Sports 3 (Tom Smith 2, Ian Fowler), Wombles 5 (James Whitcher 3, Justin Kernick 2) Compton 2 (Ben Fielder, James Duthie).

JUNIOR 2: Chamberlayne Ath 6 (Lewis LeMesurier 3, Nathan Page 2, Darren Nutbeam) Wellow 3 (Ashley Baddams 3), Hamble United 2 (Sean Brown, Dan Gregory) QK Soton A 1 (Ben Scarborough), Questmap 3 (Nick Woodgate 2, Pat Goode) AFC Chandlers Ford 0.

JUNIOR 3: Capital 2 (Ian Jordan, Trevor Woodvine) Bricklayers AFC 1 (Shane Mair), Forest Town Res 1 (Steve Knight) FC Wellington 1, Riverside 8 (Danny Phillips 5, Craig Phillips, Kev Corbet-Butler, Matthew Austin) Chandlers Fd Rang 2 (Tom Milczarek 2), Warsash Wasps 0 Compton Res0.

JUNIOR 4: Chandler's Ford 5 (Luke Smith 2, Nathan James, Ollie Potter, David Kyle) Brigadier Gerard 1 (Simon Hare), Good Companions 2 (Craig Edwards, Joe Jarvie) Botley Village Res 4 (Scott Chael 2, Jim Lawton, Paul Rowland), New Forest 1 (Barry Slater) Harefield 6 (Elliott Jordan 3, Zac Glasspool 2, Peter Vine), Priory Rovers 5 (Liam West 2, Steve Davis 2, Dave Wagner) Cricketers (Fair Oak) 1 (Kev Buncombe), West Totton 2 (John Dunne, Nathan Ward) AFC Gulf Western 5 (Jordan Penfold 2, Callum Wardle, Kieran Wyse, Emmett Madden).

JUNIOR 5: Athletico Romsey 1 (Luke Munroe) Freemantle AFC 6 (Billy Hunt 3, Luke Thomas, Terry Coupland, Jamie Mead), Horton Heath 3 (Phil Kimber, Karl Taitt, Glen Littleboy) Riverside Res 2 (Matt Conway, Dave Watts), London Airways Res 4 (Mo Al Majhad 2, Tom Harrison, o.g.) Botley Village A 2 (Chris Coldwell 2), Upham Res 2 (James Byrne) Hamble United Res 3 (Josh Chalkley 2, Jamie Keates).

JUNIOR 6: AFC Soton 3 (Kev Davie, James Moorman, Jamie Paget) New Forest Res 4 (Paul Rundle 2, Carl Williams, Rowland Barter), AFC Station 2 (Michael Hogg, o.g.) Sporting Wessex 1 (Jamie Kerkoff), Amptill Athletic 3 (Dan Davies 2, Daryl Gilmartin) Burridge Village 2 (Aaron Wright, Tim Cullen), Braishfield Res 6 (Andy Nutman 3, Tom Baintow, Dave Fry, Falah Hassan) SG Sports 2 (Anthony Gardner, Dan Porter), Mechanics 2 (Tiago Dos Santos, Hail Yetgin) Michelmersh & T A 1 (Stu Morris).

VETERANS A: QK Soton 3 (Tony Stacey, Jason Bridges, Toby Adams) Nursling 4 (Norman Steel, Malc Callaway, Stacey Green pen, o.g.), Old Tauntonians 0 Sholing 9 (Martin Chamberlayne 3, Chris Dixon, Jason Collier, Dean Rochester, Jez French, Hugh Arthur, Paul Viney), Sporting BTC 4 (Ben Goodridge 3, Matt Hawes) BTC Soton 1 (o.g.). **VETERANS B:** Albion Sports 2 (Rich Mount, Kev Tull) Hedge End Rangers 4 (Brett Hyde 2, Mark Collins, Mark Blake pen), AFC Stoneham 0 Locks Heath 3 (Craig Finch, Martin Roberts, Jason Thomas), Compton 2 (Dorn Phipps, Jim Warren) Bishops Waltham Dym 2 (Martin Vidler, Simon Rustell), Northend United 5 (Luke Cotter 2, Nick Winter 2, Rick Andrews) Wildem OB 4 (Scott Blake 2, Rich Jablonski, Howard Gunter).

VETERANS C: Baddesley Pk 1 (Ed Wallis) Winchester OB 1 (Martin Healey), GE Aviation B 4 (Keith Kinchington 2, Mark Williams, Alan Smith) Langley Manor B 1 (Reme Gorais).

DREW SMITH SOTON FOOTBALL LEAGUE SCORERS AUGUST 27
SENIOR 1: Lyndhurst 3 (Rob Gill, Ryan Yeo, Wade Wilson pen) White Horse 3 (Pete Sleep 2, Alan Skilton).

NON-LEAGUE REVIEW EVERY MONDAY IN THE DAILY ECHO

— COUNTDOWN TO 2012 — — — COUNTDOWN TO 2012 — — — COUNTDOWN TO 2012 — — —

DAN CLOSES IN ON

Gordon Simpson

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SPORTS REPORTER



WHEN Dan McMillan sat down at his computer four years ago it was a moment that would kick-start a journey leading him to the brink of the London Olympic Games.

The 29-year-old, from the Hampshire village of Sway, is likely to represent Great Britain next summer in the sport of handball.

But McMillan's path to 2012 has been a strange one.

At university, his sport was American football.

And McMillan was talented enough at it to earn a professional contract in the elite German league once his studies had finished.

While abroad, playing in the city of Lubeck, he came across handball for the first time.

But it wasn't until hearing of an appeal in 2007 for new players that he started to think about giving it a go.

UK Sport wanted athletes to join their Talent Transfer initiative, in order to help Britain achieve its goal of fielding a team in

"The amount of personal sacrifices I have had to put on myself, my family and my future are massive."

every Olympic sport in 2012.

So, McMillan sat down at his computer and submitted an application.

"They were asking for athletes over 6ft 3in to see if they could come forward and transfer their skills to a minority sport," recalled McMillan.

"The sports I saw when I was applying online were handball, rowing and volleyball.

"I'm actually just under 6ft 3in, so if anything I technically shouldn't have been on it.

"I was too small for volleyball and I wouldn't want to get up at 6am every day to go rowing.

"But running, catching and throwing seemed ideal for me, so I applied for handball."

McMillan was invited for a trial, along with hundreds of others, which he successfully negotiated. That led to further testing, which he had to fit in among his American football season in Germany.

"I was doing it as a one-off chance to get the opportunity to work towards an Olympics," he said.

"When I came back from Germany at the end of my season, there was a letter waiting for me saying I was one of 18 players they wanted to take forward to teach handball."

After an eight-week crash course in Sheffield, McMillan was one of 12 people selected to join the British Handball Association's full-time programme, based in Arhus, Denmark.

All appeared to be going well, until the organisation had their funding slashed by UK



HOT SHOTS
McMillan taking a main picture (far right), getting with the side of the

Sport in January 2009.

With a £50m Team GB budget shortfall, handball was one of a number of sports that came into the firing line.

"There were massive changes in the programme, and it was a real crisis period," said McMillan.

"Coaches left and new staff came in. A lot of people came and went, because they couldn't afford to sacrifice so much.

"The amount of personal sacrifices I have had to put on myself, my family, and my future as a result is massive."

But it is often said every cloud has a silver lining and, a month later, McMillan received what he described as a "lucky break".

"The German Handball-Bundesliga – the top league in the world – had financial difficulties as well," he said.

"One of the top teams (TUSEM-Essen) lost

all their money and all their players.

"They needed a team to finish the season, so they contacted the BHA and asked if anyone was able to come and play in what is the Premiership of handball.

"The team selected six of us to go.

"Five of the guys had played before, but I was the only one who had only been involved in the sport for just a year or so.

"That was a massive part of my career in

OLYMPIC DESTINY

OT: Dan
in action
shot at goal,
ture, and,
left of pic-
tting to grips
defensive
ne game.



HOPEFULS: Team GB handball player Dan McMillan, left, with 420 sailing dinghy world champion Annabel Vose and Team GB wheelchair rugby star Aaron Phipps at the recent launch of the Hampshire Talented Athlete Scheme.

handball. It gave me an understanding of what the top players in the world were like." After finishing the season with Essen, McMillan returned to play club handball in Denmark.

"I went up through the divisions, from three, to two, to one, and I'm in the first division this year, with a team called Odder.

"Pretty much every year I've taken a step up in level, so my development I suppose is com-

ing on well.

"Somewhere I do lack is the technical and tactical knowledge, where experience is the key factor.

"But what I miss there I try to make up for in aggression, physicality and anticipation."

Because of the funding cuts, life is not easy for McMillan and the rest of the British players when it comes to finances.

But they all work part-time jobs, undertak-

ing tasks such as cleaning, while based in Denmark to help make ends meet.

McMillan himself is actually employed as a strength and conditioning coach for some talented junior Danish tennis players.

And he is desperately hoping all the financial burdens and sacrifices will be worth it come next summer.

"I dread to think how I'm going to come out of London 2012, especially if I don't get into

the team," said McMillan, who is also helped by support from the Hampshire Talented Athletes Scheme.

"I would be heartbroken, after four years of blood, sweat and tears to not get in.

"So there has been a lot of worry about 'have I wasted my time?'

"But you can't really afford to think like that, you've got to stay focused."

However, McMillan has been a constant fixture in the British team since joining their programme, meaning it would be a surprise if he was not competing in London.

"It would be the moment of my career to make it," he said.

"If I made it, it would just be a case of wondering why did I doubt myself?

"It would make me more of a man and mature me. Obviously, it would be massive for my family and friends too.

"I have put everything else on the back burner just to chase this sporting dream.

"I've just got to make sure I put everything on the line now."

In fact, McMillan is already a part of the Games, having been immortalised with his image on one of the special 50 pence coins released in commemoration of London 2012.

And he is hopeful Team GB can make an impression on the court next summer.

"We are aiming to be competitive in 2012," he

"I have had to put everything else on the back burner just to chase this sporting dream."

said. "We feel confident we are going to win games."

Britain's first competitive handball win arrived last year, as they beat Bulgaria in a thrilling Euro 2012 qualifier.

"That was amazing," said McMillan.

"People kept doubting us, saying Great Britain don't play handball.

"Then we came up against a tried and tested nation, and a team of veterans, and won, so it was a massive boost for us."

The team has also beaten Belgium since, and recently ran an established Brazil side very close.

"That shows how far we have come," said Edinburgh-born McMillan, who moved to Brockenhurst when he was five, before the family switched to Sway, near Lymington, six years ago.

As for his own future in the sport, McMillan has not yet decided.

"For me, I'm 30 on the day of the closing ceremony, so it might be a fitting end to the handball," he said. "But it depends what doors open up afterwards.

"I'm aiming to eventually go into coaching, although that doesn't necessarily mean handball. But if I play well then maybe a contract offer will come through from a club in France or Spain or something."

Are you a talented athlete from Hampshire? If so, you can apply for support from the Hampshire Talented Athletes Scheme. Visit sportshampshireiow.co.uk/talentedathletes for details.

Premiership Spotlight



SPORTS BOOKS OF THE MONTH

Manchester United are aiming at Barca-level

WAYNE ROONEY will never look back on his Champions League final goal at Wembley last May with any sense of satisfaction.

Rooney, below, and his Manchester United team-mates are gearing up for their return to Europe's number one club competition, less than four months after that chastening defeat by Barcelona.

The one-sided manner of the contest has been impossible for United to ignore, even if Rooney's clinical effort just before half-time had brought hope of a Red Devils victory.

Lionel Messi and David Villa ensured that did not happen, rendering Rooney's goal point-less, even to the man who scored it.

"It was nice to score but it means nothing," he told MUTV. "It is not a goal I will always look back on and remember."

"We lost the game, so I don't want to think about it too much. It just goes to the back of my mind. I want to help us win games."

This Wednesday's encounter with Benfica in the Stadium of Light is a

repeat of the 1968 final, which United won in extra-time.

Yet the showpieces of 2009 and 2011 have more relevance because they appear to place United a distant second to a Barcelona team many have now claimed to be one of the greatest ever.

Paul Scholes recently suggested United were "a million miles away" from reaching that level, an observation Rooney accepts on the evidence of that one night alone.

"It was a fair thing to say," he said. "They are so difficult to play against. They have their midfield, then the forwards tuck in, so they outnumber you."

"It is hard to get the ball off them and when you do, you are tired from chasing around."

"We have to try and learn from the experience and believe, if we get there again, we will be better off for it."

"You have to applaud them for the way they played. They are a great team to watch."

"Our aim for us to reach that level over the next few years."



United's ultimate scoring machine

DENIS LAW, aka The King, one of a tiny band of British players to have been crowned European Footballer of the Year, is now in his seventieth year, though the image of him in full flow is burnished upon the consciousness of those of us lucky enough to have seen him play.

There was nothing Elvis-like about Law when he was playing though; his style combined admirable bravery and a unique poaching instinct as his record of 160 goals in 220 games for Manchester United proves.

Law was an integral part of a famed striking triumvirate (with Best and Charlton), with whom he twice won the league championship and a European Cup.



STILL A UNITED MAN: Denis Law with the Barclays Premier League Trophy.

He also accumulated 55 caps for Scotland, his most memorable performance being in 1967 when Scotland became the first team to defeat England when they were reigning world champions.

The cover of this lavishly produced book depicts a typically athletic Law in full flight at Wembley: eye on the ball, shirt outside of his shorts and in the process of side-footing what looks like a precision cross.

Denis Law: My Life in Football
By Denis Law & Ivan Ponting

Sportsbookofthemonth.com price: £21.25, saving 15% on rrp

Denis Law was a genuine footballing great, though the end of his career at Manchester United was especially poignant.

Incredibly, he was given a free transfer (aged just 33) and picked up by a struggling Manchester City.

At one point, he was on the verge of being transferred to Bradford City, then in the Fourth Division, when he was selected for City's final match of the season, a derby at Old Trafford.

Manchester United needed a win to avoid relegation

but, with eight minutes remaining, Law's final touch in professional football, a back-heel which flew past Alex Stepney, condemned United to the Second Division.

The picture which shows Law's reaction to his final goal at Old Trafford depicts a man with the heaviest of hearts.

He later said it was one effort he would have preferred to go wide, a testament to the man's honesty so evident in his playing style too.

Quiz question:

We've teamed up with Sports Book of the Month & have a copy of Denis Law: My Life in Football to give away.

To win this week's sports book, go to their website (sportsbookofthemonth.com) and answer the following question:

In which city was Denis Law born?

Running – into compulsion



LATEST RUNNING MAN: Britain's 5,000 metre world champion, Mo Farah.

"ALL who have put on a pair of trainers will know the sense of freedom that comes with fresh air on the face miles from home," writes Robin Harvie in the prologue to his book *Why We Run*.

Harvie admits to having never won a race in his life, though he has a capacity for tackling very long distances, a passion (the book is sub-titled *A Story of Obsession*) which non-runners find difficult to comprehend.

"They may never understand," he says of the obsessively sedentary. "They will look on with complete incomprehension at the idea of making life harder still..."

Though Harvie addresses the notion that the process of starting to run can, for some people, be enormously difficult, once they've been active for a month or so, few want to stop.

In other words, irrespective of how fast you go, running

Why We Run By Robin Harvie

Sportsbookofthemonth.com price: £7.49, saving 42% on rrp

can become compulsive and Harvie joins a lengthening list of accomplished writers who have found that the solitude of running enables them to travel on a simultaneous inner journey of discovery.

In appropriately laddish manner, Harvie ran his first marathon for a bet, found that he enjoyed it and was soon running 120 miles a week. On average, this took around 15 hours – ample time for the author to think about life and how to escape its depressingly routine nature.

Though a very personal tale of discovery, Harvie's account is laced with often excruciating

descriptions of pain, philosophical musings and history. It develops to become part-memoir, part compulsive page-turner.

"I have seen something that few people have witnessed and even fewer reported," writes Harvie. "If you want to know where that road leads, read on. If not, then you are already stronger, braver and more knowing than I ever thought I was capable of being."

Quiz question:

We've teamed up with Sports Book of the Month & have a copy of *Why We Run* to give away.

To win this week's sports book, go to their website (sportsbookofthemonth.com) and answer the following question:

Which athlete currently holds the Olympic marathon record? Answers must be received no later than midnight on 16 September 2011.

CALL SPORTS EDITOR SIMON CARTER ON 023 8042 4515

Adam Rant

This week's big talking points
with **Adam Leitch**INTERNATIONALS –
WHO CARES?**SO England were uninspiring against Wales – who is really surprised? In fact, who really cares that much?**

The huge amount of saturation coverage of domestic football has left the international game often playing somewhat second fiddle these days.

Gone are the times where live football wasn't on TV that often, but England games were, so families would gather round to watch.

Maybe there is also an argument that pride in the country as a whole has dissipated over the past decade or so for a variety of sociological reasons.

Or perhaps it is because we are so used to seeing the very best players in the world play every weekend live on TV, or even in the flesh, that just the best that England has to offer against a world minnow seems as uninspiring as it normally turns out to be.

There is still a good effort by the media though, for whom it remains a big deal, even if the public don't seem as concerned until the major tournaments roll around.

That is ultimately what does grab the interest.

The truth of the

matter is that people would care if England looked like they weren't going to qualify for the next World Cup or European Championships, but if they do then most people are not too bothered until the finals themselves start.

That's why an uninspiring win over Wales is greeted with total indifference.

Much is made of it by the media still, but out there on the streets and in the pubs you don't find too many people ranting and raving over it.

Certainly most people would be far more vexed if their domestic team grabbed an uninspiring 1-0 home win over a team they really should steamroller.

As for the last couple of England games we have just enjoyed/endured, there are some lessons to be learned.

But, to be perfectly honest, as they won, and have almost qualified for Euro 2012, who really cares?

BORING?:
England's
James Milner
tackles Wales' Andrew Crofts.

Nick Potts PA/Wire.

World Cup
promises
plenty of
surprises

BY the time you read this the Rugby World Cup will be underway and it's always a great spectacle.

Adam Rant does attend a few rugby union matches a season but cannot pretend to be a great authority on the game.

However, it is always great to watch the very best sportsmen and teams compete at the very top of their game, almost regardless of the sport.

Rugby can be such an absorbing contest with the physical nature of it and the scoring system



MARTIN JOHNSON

keeping things interesting when the top teams face each other.

There is also even greater interest as the home nations are normally playing, and with all four seeded in the top eight, they could all get through the group stages which would make things even more tasty.

Scotland and England are also together in the group stage so that will be as fascinating and passionate as ever it was, no matter where it is staged.

As for England's chances, well they are certainly not the favourites, and nor do they deserve to be, but it looks like quite an open contest.

A lot of the northern hemisphere teams have racked up some good results against southern hemisphere sides in the last couple of years and there could be a shock winner come the end of it.

It's unfair to expect Martin Johnson to repeat the heroics of previous campaigns but you just never know with the England rugby team.

They seem to save their very best for the biggest stage.

Big year for our boxers

THE new boxing season is just getting underway and it will be intriguing to see what it holds for our local fighters in particular.

It's a massive year in the amateur ranks for Iain Weaver who has for so long been quietly plodding away in the background but is a genuine hope for a local medal in the Olympics.

But he still has to get on the team for sure before we can look too far ahead.

In the professional ranks there is a mixture of excitement and trepidation.

There are boxers on the verge of title fights – but in boxing that doesn't mean they are necessarily going to get them.

With the way the sport is, with the politics and personalities involved, it is not always as simple as the best facing the best.

On the local scene there are three

fighters who are all probably only a couple more fights away from being considered ready to have a crack at a Southern Area title, maybe even English level. After a few defences you look ahead from there.

But for those fighters to get their chance their management has to deliver.

And whilst we have seen a host of shows in the area of late, which has been great, they have been building the fighters up, which is so much easier to do than delivering title shots, which cost much more money for initially little extra gain.

Going up to a national level we have Tony Hill standing tall.

If you haven't seen this guy then trust Adam Rant, he has all the assets required to win a British title and who knows what else.

But he needs his break, he needs to land that big fight.

Hill has improved beyond all recog-

nition in the last couple of years. His attitude is now first rate, under Wayne Batten in the Millbank gym you know his conditioning will be spot on, and most importantly mentally he is right at it.

Now is the time but he doesn't need a short notice fight, he needs to be preparing properly and to be fair he is so confident, in such great shape, with the right notice he'd take on anybody.

But again for that fight to happen it requires an investment of cash, taking a gamble, and that has halted many a promising boxer's career in the past.

All we can do is support these guys, lobby for them if nothing happens, and hope that they get the chances they have earned.

If they can't take them then that's their issue.

But not to get them would be hard to take.



OLYMPIC HOPE: Iain Weaver

Non-league Football

Water-way to start the new season

DARREN Waterman's Eastleigh reserve side have got off to a cracking start in the Suburban Football League Premier A Division.

Last weekend's 2-1 victory at Carshalton Athletic, settled by goals from Liam Robinson and Ben Chambers, was their third win from four fixtures.

Eastleigh handed a trial to 21-year-old former Carshalton goalkeeper Craig Ross, who has previously had spells with Southampton, Arsenal, Reading, Crystal Palace, Colchester Chertsey Town and Ashford Town (Middlesex).

Eastleigh: Craig Ross, Luke Davies, Callum Casson, Liam Hibberd, Will Aimson, Mitch Goldring, Ben Chambers, Will Sturgess (Callie Culverhouse), Joe Maxwell (Sam Moore), Matt Gray (Martin Buckthorpe), Liam Robinson.

Eastleigh's other reserve team, managed by David Hazelgrove, earned their first Wyvern



BEN CHAMBERS

Combination League point of the season in a 1-1 home draw with Wimborne Town.

Only Jamie Blackburn had featured in the team's opening Premier Division encounter – a 4-0 away defeat at

Bemerton Heath Harlequins.

Having gone ahead on 27 minutes with an excellent strike from Callum Casson, Eastleigh conceded an equaliser on the hour when one of their former players, Nathan Lynch, scored for Wimborne.

Eastleigh: Gareth Schultze, Jamie Blackburn, Ben Wilson, Will Aimson, Liam Hibberd, Jack Vallis, Ryan Lewis, Martin Willitts (Will Sturgess), Sam Wilson, Gary Fitzehorswell (Joe Chamberlain), Callum Casson (Beuno Pembroke).

Eastleigh's Hampshire Youth League Division Three side kicked off their competitive season with a home win over New Milton Town.

Starting slowly, the young Spitfires fell behind to a penalty after goalkeeper Josh Helm had been cautioned for a challenge inside the area.

Grant Newham equalised two minutes before the interval, making the most of a defensive error, and, after a flurry of substitutions, goals from Chukuma Dibigbo and Liam Seager secured Eastleigh their 3-1 opening day success.

Eastleigh: Josh Helm, Ryan Holloway, Sam Simmons, Dominic Mollicone (Will Harris), Dan Wooton (Rob Payne), Dillon Smith, Ben Coverdale, David Whittaker, Grant Newham (Elliott Braund), Chukuma Dibigbo, Liam Seager.

Brock wrong man but still gets ban

RIGHT-BACK Jon Brock served a one-match suspension for Totton & Eling last Saturday – even though he had been a victim of mistaken identity.

Having sent the defender off for a second bookable offence on the opening day of the season at Fareham Town, the referee later admitted he had cautioned the wrong man.

But when the Millers asked the Hampshire Football Association how they would go about getting the booking rescinded, they were told they would have to appeal.

"The referee confirmed after the game that it was mistaken identity and Jon shouldn't have been sent off," said Millers boss Kev Dawtry.

"But the Hampshire FA wanted a David Copperfield version of events and we would have had to appeal to prove Jon's innocence.

"It would have cost us more to do that than pay Jon's fine, so we decided against it.

"We paid Jon's fine for him and took the one-match suspension.

"It's frustrating, but that's the way things are when you're playing at this level."

Without Brock on board, Totton & Eling were dumped out of the FA Cup 2-1 at home by Bournemouth Poppies last Saturday.

Two early Dave Ewen penalties gave them a mountain to climb, but they did manage to get a foothold in the game when the fit-again Steve Marwood shocked his boss with a long-range wonder goal.

"Steve's been out injured since cracking his ribs in the first game of the season, but he came on with half an hour to go," said Dawtry. "As he stepped up to take a free kick from 35 yards, I turned to the lads on the bench and said you'd better go and stand by

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NON-LEAGUE REPORTER

the trees behind the goal to get this one!

"They said that if it went in I'd look a fool – and then Steve's hit an unstoppable shot that flew into the top corner! It was a hell of a strike."

Sadly for the Millers, it wasn't enough to rescue the preliminary round tie in what has been a patchy start to the season for Dawtry's new-look side.

One or two players have still to master Totton & Eling's style of building play up from the back, but ex-Saint Dawtry is determined to stick with it.

He said: "When we drew 2-2 with Fawley a couple of weeks back a lot of people said what a good game it was to watch.

"When people pay £6 or whatever to get into a game, they don't want to see the ball up in the air all the time.

"I was brought up to keep the ball moving as much as possible and that's how I teach people.

"We've got a new bunch of lads and sometimes they tend to overplay. It's all about deciding when and when not to do it.

"A couple of times we've tried to bring the ball out instead of wellying it up the field and silly mistakes have cost us goals.

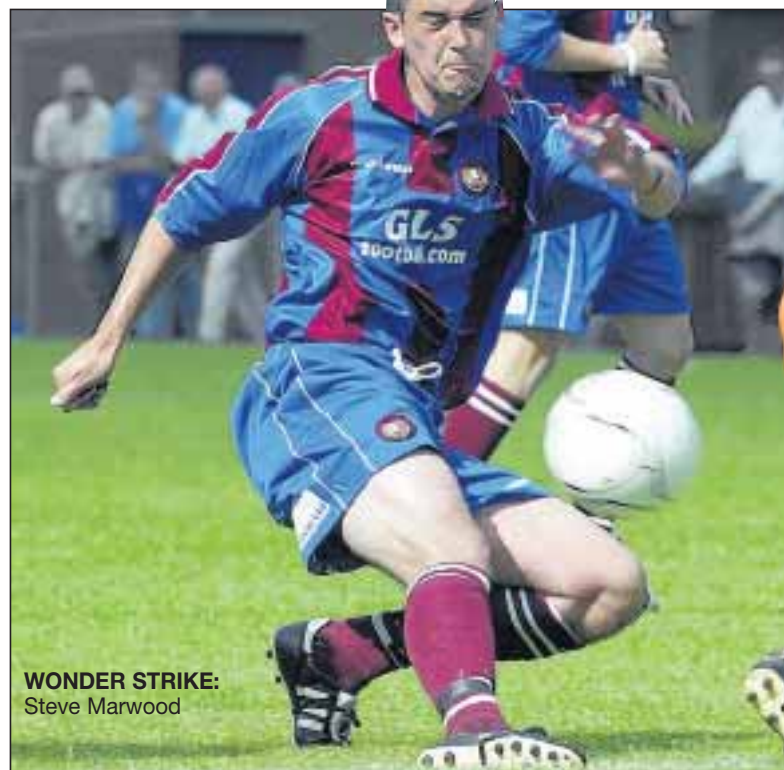
"Some of the players are not used to having the ball rolled to them by the keeper, but they'll learn. We need to be a bit more careful at the back.

"It doesn't help that we haven't had a settled back four," he added. "One or two have been playing cricket, Lee Thorne's had a thigh problem and Phil Ward has been away."

Ward's return this week comes just in the nick of time to cover for injured centre-back Jamie Feasey whose foot was broken in a late tackle last Saturday.



KEVIN DAWTRY



WONDER STRIKE: Steve Marwood

Wayne's referee trouble

RINGWOOD Town boss Wayne Locky said he expected to get into hot water after pointing the finger at the referee following a dramatic 3-3 draw with Team Solent last Saturday.

Locky claimed official Brian Bolton awarded a number of key decisions that cost his side maximum Sydenhams One points.

Sean Leadbetter, already booked for conceding a first-half penalty which the visitors missed,

received a second yellow for handball inside the area on 77 minutes and Mike Wheeler converted the spot kick to cancel Kane Chattey's opener.

Lucasz Labedzki and Jordan Frewen exchanged strikes late on before Ringwood's Dan Morrell looked to have won it for the rock-bottom Foresters.

But there was further controversy as Solent levelled through Charlie Pierson's own goal seven minutes into added time

after a hotly disputed corner had gone against Ringwood.

"It wasn't the best display I have ever seen from an official," said Locky, adding: "I am going to get into trouble."

"We are trying to respect the referees as much as we can, but it has to be a two-way street."

"We feel robbed. "The decisions, particularly the corner award at the end, weren't even contentious – they were just wrong."

EMAIL YOUR NON-LEAGUE PICTURES TO echosport@dailyecho.co.uk

Non-league Football

LEARNING A HARD LESSON

SKIPPER Tom Jordan respects Eastleigh's young striker Sam Wilson for surviving the rough, tough world of the Conference South at the age of 16.

With the Spitfires ravaged by injury and suspension, Wilson was handed his first Blue Square Bet start against Bromley last Saturday.

He was the youngest of six teenagers in a youthful starting eleven which also included Jordace Holder-Spooner, Billy Tsovolos, Andrew White, Henrik Breimyr and Mark Cooper.

Leading the line is quite a responsibility for the former Wildern schoolboy, who spent a year at the Portsmouth academy and is one of the first batch of youngsters to venture into full-time football with Eastleigh's new player development scheme.

But Wilson, who turns 17 in October, is growing in confidence week by week and experienced team captain Jordan enjoys watching him and his fellow teens blossom.

He said: "The young ones are learning fast – and they need to."

"They're not just squad players, they're starters and regulars."

"The first few games of the season were difficult, but you can already see progress with the young players. They all listen and want to learn."

"We've got to be patient with them. There are going to be a few ups and downs and I certainly didn't enjoy losing our first three games."

"But I enjoyed keeping our first clean sheet against Woking (a 0-0 draw) and the wins over Dorchester and Weston and I enjoy seeing the development of youngsters like Sam Wilson who's come into the side at 16."

Standing 6ft 5in tall, 30-year-old Jordan, an experienced former Bristol City, Southend, Tamworth and Havant & Waterlooville centre back, epitomises what the Blue Square Bet South is all about.

But for all his physical prowess, he says he would not have coped in such a tough environment at Wilson's tender age.

Wendy Gee

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NON-LEAGUE REPORTER

"When I was 16 I wouldn't have been mature enough to play at this level, but a lot of these lads are," he said.

"I played my first Football League game at 19 and started playing regularly for Tamworth at 20."

"Until then I was playing academy games for Bristol City and there wasn't the same pressure. I think this (Eastleigh) is a better environment for these lads to learn in."

"Just look at Aaron Martin (now of Southampton) and Brett Williams (now of Reading and on loan at Rotherham United) who have both done brilliantly."

"They came to Eastleigh, worked hard, learned their trade and are reaping the benefits."

"Hopefully we'll have another Aaron and another Brett in this group, depending on how quickly they learn."

"We've played seven games so far and you can tell they are now thinking about the team more rather than just thinking about themselves."

With their side top heavy with teenagers, it wasn't totally surprising that Eastleigh succumbed 2-0 to a physically superior Bromley side.

The first goal, a Harry Harding penalty, was conceded by Jordan and the second came when debut-making left-back Cooper was left exposed by a poor pass and gifted the ball to Danny Waldren. It was a bad goal to give away, but the skipper had some sympathy with former Bristol Rovers and Frome defender Cooper who

had barely spoken to his teammates, let alone played with them.

"It was the first time I'd met Mark Cooper and that's a challenge in itself," said Jordan. "We've only got a small squad

and there are occasions when a new player will walk into the dressing room before a game, not know anyone and will be trying to find out people's names."

"Mark had a lot of pressure on him but he kept going and applied himself."

Another young left-back, Ben Wilson, had a torrid time of it against Basingstoke on the opening day – so much so that he was hauled off after 22 minutes and hasn't started since.

But the level-headed Itchen College student, who turned 17 in February, respected manager Ian Baird's decision to withdraw him from the heat of the battle.

"I was up against an absolute unit in Delano Sam-Yorke – he's massive," he said. "And if the manager sees a weak spot he's going to change it."

"We're a team and, for the good of the team, I will do what I'm told."

Wilson (no relation to West End neighbour Sam) is another on Eastleigh's full-time programme and is fitting his football around his studies.

A former

Bitterne Park schoolboy, he joined Eastleigh two seasons ago, spent his

first year playing for the under-16s and progressed to Darren Waterman's reserves last term.

"It's brilliant here," he smiled.

"The lads are top notch and it's a good environment to come to every day."



DEBUT BOY: Mark Cooper, above. Below: Billy Tsovolos in action against Bromley.



Cuss backs his young guns to fire

STEVE Cuss is confident a spell in non-League's school of hard knocks will prepare Dan Strugnell for life in the professional ranks.

The promising Cherries centre-half is learning his trade in senior football with a three-month loan at Cuss's Wimborne Town, writes Ian Wadley.

Strugnell, who signed a one-year contract at the end of his Dean Court apprenticeship, was one of Magpies' top performers in their FA Cup defeat by Godalming Town last Saturday.

Wimborne boss Cuss, also the head of AFC Bournemouth's Community Sports Trust, is hoping the Evo-Stik South & West club can play a part in a bright future for the defender.

"He's got a really good attitude and the way he works and presents himself is fantastic," said Cuss.

"His performances have been excellent and we certainly missed him

(against Sholing) last Monday when he was injured."

"From Bournemouth's point of view, he is learning the physical side of the game with the strikers he has been up against. "I'm sure that will help him as he develops and tries to get into Bournemouth's first team when he goes back."

Fellow Cherries rookie Alex Parsons, currently sidelined with a hamstring problem, is also on loan with Wimborne's youthful side.

The majority of Cuss's team is unproven at Southern League level, but he intends to give them a chance to make the grade.

"Everyone talks about the age of our players, but they are good players that want to play at this level," he said.

"They were bitterly disappointed with Saturday's performance and what happened last weekend as well."

"But I don't think it is so much an age thing. For a lot of them, it is their first step up to this level and we are finding our feet."

"We have been very good at times and, on other occasions, we haven't quite hit the heights we were looking for."

"It's a learning curve and a long-term project."

"I'm sure some of the players will push on and be regulars in our league and others probably won't."

"But at the moment we are keeping faith with what we've got and players will be given the opportunity to show they can play."



STRUGNELL

TURN BACK TO PAGE 20 FOR TODAY'S NON-LEAGUE ACTION

Non-league Football

Non-league News

Legends at Winchester

WINCHESTER City will be hosting an evening with Matt Le Tissier, pictured, Paul Walsh, Mark Dennis and comedian

Mike Osman later this month.

Sponsored by The Pink's sister paper The Hampshire Chronicle, the Thursday, September 29 event will include a question and answer session, a charity auction, a three-course Indian meal supplied by Southampton's POSH restaurant and complimentary Italian wine.

Tickets are £45. All proceeds from the auction will be donated to the nearby Naomi House hospice.

Ring the club for more details on 07867 808767 or 07884 225611. Alternatively email bernie.21@hotmail.com or sawoodgate@gmail.com

Jack shines in both boxes

YOUNG defender Jack Lee was the star of the Moneyfields show as they dumped Southern League neighbours Gosport Borough out of the FA Cup 2-1 last Saturday.

With the Money men missing several senior players, Lee was brought in to cover at the heart of defence.

Not only did he do an excellent job shackling Borough's highly experienced targetman James



Taylor, he managed to get in on the goalscoring act, cancelling Justin Bennett's opener for Gosport from Conor Bailey's corner.

Steve Hutchings lobbed Gosport's former AFC Bournemouth and Salisbury keeper Ryan Pryce to book Moneyfields a first qualifying round date at Godalming Town next Saturday.

"I thought Jack Lee was the best player on the pitch by a long way," said Moneys boss Miles Rutherford. "He had an experienced forward to deal with in James Taylor but did everything asked of him."

All-White City signing

WINCHESTER City have sent out a statement of intent to their Sydenhams Premier championship rivals by signing ex-Saints striker Jamie White.

After falling short in last season's title race, the Denplan City Ground club are desperate to reclaim their Southern League status this time round.

And in former Saints, Shrewsbury (loan) and Eastleigh player White, pictured, they have bagged a young player who could strike up a formidable frontline partnership with ex-Fareham goal-getter Graham Lindsey.

White, 21, has spent the last few months playing professional football in Australia as part of his recuperation from the cruel rash of injuries that sabotaged his hopes of a Football League career.

Winchester owner Paul McCarthy has been in touch with the Harefield

lad throughout the summer and clinched his signature this week.

White, who made three league appearances for Southampton, joins fellow ex-Saints

Mike Byrne and Tom Dunford on Winchester's books.

"I've been speaking to Jamie for months.

"It's a really exciting signing for us," said McCarthy.

"But if Jamie fulfils his potential with us, we won't be keeping hold of him for very long.

"He's easily good enough to get back into the Football League,

everybody says that.

"He's fine fitness-wise and has been playing pro football in Queensland. But he got homesick out there and now he's back.

"He can play on the left or right side or through the middle and I'm sure (manager) Guy Butters will make the right decisions to get the best out of him.

"Jamie's a great lad and he will fit in well with our other ex-Saints boys."

Despite the depth and quality of their squad, Winchester have already suffered a couple of knocks this season – notably a 4-2 home league defeat by

Alresford and last Saturday's 3-1 FA Cup exit against Blackfield & Langley, which

denied them £1,500 in prize money and a plum trip to Southern League outfit Sholing in the first qualifying round next Saturday.

They will, however, have been encouraged by title rivals Bemerton Heath Harlequins slipping up 1-0 at Romsey in midweek.

"It's going to be a really tough season," McCarthy predicted. "Clubs are being upset all over the place – including us."

White is not the only new addition to Guy Butters' squad. Winchester have also signed Cassius Newton, son of former Chelsea star Eddie.

The teenager, who has been on the books of Football League clubs Brentford, AFC Bournemouth and MK Dons, joins a host of new faces this season as City push for promotion back into the Southern League.

Like his father, the 19-year-old is a midfielder who is strong in the tackle and has a good passing range.



JAMIE WHITE

TOTTON SEAL TIE-UP



PARTNERS: Totton College principal Mike Gaston and AFC Totton Chairman Phil Shephard shake hands before Saturday's game to mark the new partnership.

AFTER months of negotiations, Southern Premier new boys AFC Totton have announced an exciting, new partnership with Totton College.

Central to the tie-up will be the development of a football academy, led at Totton College by Andy Daish and Anthony Merriman.

This season's AFC Totton under-16s will be given the chance to enter the Totton College Academy in September

next year and combine high-level academic tuition with football coaching.

The two parties will share the use of facilities at Totton College and AFC Totton's new Conference-standard Testwood Stadium ground in Salisbury Road, including the playing and training areas.

Another key component of the partnership will be the development of community links.

Both the college and the club are at the heart of Totton and are looking forward to working together for the benefit of the players, the fans, the students and the wider community.

After winning the Southern One South & West title and retaining the Hampshire FA Senior Cup last season, AFC Totton have made an excellent start to the Evo-Stik Premier Division campaign in this their 125th anniversary season.

Totton College are also on an upward curve with A-Level and BTEC National pass rates up again on last

year. The college has also developed a strong apprenticeship offer, broadening the learning opportunities available to young people. It has received the Training Quality Standard in recognition of the excellence of its work.

AFC Totton chairman Phil Shephard (right) is pictured shaking hands on the partnership with Totton College principal Mike Gaston prior to last Saturday's 2-1 home victory over Barwell.

TURN TO PAGE 48 FOR THE LATEST NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL RESULTS

Non-league Football

Netley absence is not the end of club

Wendy Gee
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NON-LEAGUE REPORTER

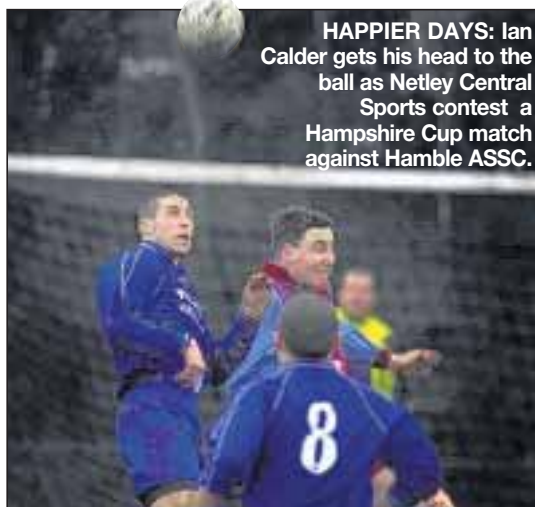
THE Magnata Care Hampshire League 2004 kicked off this season without one very familiar name in tow.

Due to a shortage of players, Netley Central Sports announced their withdrawal two weeks before the curtain went up on the 2011/12 campaign.

Following the demise of the old Hampshire League, the 110-year-old club spent two seasons in the Wessex Division 3 which was subsequently annexed.

Lacking the facilities to join the newly-launched Hampshire Premier League, they subsequently became members of the Hampshire League 2004 which had been created for clubs unable to meet the Wessex ground-grading criteria.

Netley twice finished as 2004 league champions, lifting the trophy two years running in 2008/09 and 2009/10. But, according to club chairman Barry Merritt, the appetite wasn't there from the players to carry on.



HAPPIER DAYS: Ian Calder gets his head to the ball as Netley Central Sports contest a Hampshire Cup match against Hamble ASSC.

Netley will continue to run a team in Southampton Senior One, managed by Jim Langdown, but Cliff Nutbeam's 2004 side has hit the buffers.

"Cliff is more disappointed than anyone," said Netley chairman Barry Merritt. "He felt that if the players had stayed the side would have gone on to better things."

"At our AGM it was all agreed that we would go

again this season with two teams, but then we found out we didn't have a Hampshire League side any more a week or two before the signing-on date.

"The players have spread themselves all over the place, but most have gone to play at a higher, better run standard in the Hampshire Premier League or the Wessex League."

"There's also the fact that a lot of players don't want to

play Saturday football any more. They prefer to play on Sundays and spend Saturdays at St Mary's watching Saints."

In one way the mass exodus of Netley players came as a big surprise to Merritt but, in another way, it didn't.

"We had players of quite a high standard here and the reason they kept together was down to the camaraderie and team spirit, so in that sense it was a shock that they decided to go and play somewhere else," he said.

"But, on the other hand, we had all been hoping for an amalgamation between the Hampshire League 2004 and the Hampshire Premier League and it hasn't happened. The players were getting fed up with it because there was no direction for us."

"We were in Wessex 3 for a couple of seasons but then the pyramid system changed and we couldn't keep up."

"We didn't have the facilities and our hands were tied because we play at a council-owned recreation ground."

"In my opinion grass roots football is getting left

behind.

"These days it's more important to have hard standing and barriers rather than a good standard of football."

"As long as clubs have barriers etc, they can go straight into a league without having to prove themselves on the pitch as we have done."

The vital thing for Netley is that the proud, old club is still alive and kicking and Merritt hasn't given up hope of re-introducing a county-level team next season.

"We've been playing at Netley for over 100 years and the main thing is that the club's not dying," he said. "There's a tradition to carry on and we'll regroup this season and hopefully get a new team in and start again from there."

"We've got a season to work on the ground and Jim Langdown is a promising, young manager who wants to go places. It's down to him to get players in and start afresh."

"We'll need a few experienced, old heads, but we also want to attract young, local lads from the village who want to play for Netley and get a bit of pride back."

No joke for frustrated Browne

HAMWORTHY United boss Simon Browne failed to see the funny side of the 'comical' own goal that cost his side victory at Fareham Town last Saturday in the Sydenhams Premier Division.

Dan Pidgley had put the Hammers on course for a fine win over their unbeaten hosts.

But when Fareham's Wayne Boud sent in a free kick from just inside the Hamworthy half, visiting goalkeeper Shane Murphy and defender Greg Horlock combined in slap-dash fashion to let maximum points slip away.

Browne explained: "A free kick swung in, bounced off Shane Murphy's chest, off Greg Horlock's shoulder and then somehow trickled over the line."

"It was slightly comical, but I wasn't laughing much at the time."

"It would definitely go in an own goal, bloomers and gaffes video if ever you did one!"

"But as much as Shane Murphy was beating himself up after the game, Dan Pidgley missed an easy chance and Matt Head missed an absolute sitter. Effectively all those incidents cost us two points."

Fareham, too, had their chances – notably when the experienced Mat Jones put a header against the post.

The 1-1 draw took Town to nine points from their first five games – not bad for a club who lost most of their senior players during the summer.

Delighted boss Matt Parr said afterwards: "Once again the work rate of our team amazed me. Even when we went behind, I was confident we would get something from the game."

"With players missing and others being forced to play out of position against a well-organised Hamworthy side, a lot of whom have played at a higher level, that is another excellent result."

Cup victory

ISLE of Wight team Downside Youth won the Marc Burrows Memorial Cup at Hurn Bridge last Sunday.

Christchurch, for whom Burrows, right, played before his death from cancer in 2009, hosted the third annual fun day in the striker's memory.

Priory boss Graham Kemp estimated around 300 people turned out on the day.

All proceeds will go to Cancer Research UK.



Bob's big Netley regret

BOB Crompton says it was a sad day when Netley Central Sports ceased to be a county league club.

Stalwart Crompton, pictured, has been with Netley for 65 years as a player, secretary, chairman and now committee member and just wishes he had known earlier that a lack of players would force their withdrawal from the Magnata Care Hampshire League 2004.

"It's come as a bit of a shock. I'm very upset this has happened after all these years," he said.

"If I'd known earlier I could have done something about it, but by the time I found out it was too late."

"There was an opportunity to bring another team, Twyford, to Netley with their supporters, but they'd already decided to go and help Michelmersh & Timsbury."

Having climbed from Division Three to Division One of the old Hampshire League in successive seasons, Netley joined the county

top flight some 60 years ago. They went on to become a prominent name in Hampshire football in pre-Wessex League days, playing alongside the likes of Basingstoke Town and Gosport Borough.

But while many of their old rivals moved onwards and upwards, Netley stayed stagnant. And in recent years they have fallen even further behind, unable to keep pace with the ever-increasing demands of ground grading at their council-owned Recreation Ground home.

When the old Hampshire League merged in with the Wessex, Netley spent a couple of seasons in Wessex 3 but that was subsequently annexed and the new Hampshire Premier League was born and awarded Step 7 status.



But Netley's lack of facilities again went against them and they remained outside the football pyramid in the Hampshire League 2004 until this summer's mass exodus of players forced them to pull out.

According to Netley Central chairman Barry Merritt, the team had become disillusioned because there was "no direction" for the club.

They had been hoping for an amalgamation between the Hampshire Premier League and the Hampshire League 2004, but lost heart when it failed to materialise.

But Crompton, who is also vice-chairman of the Hampshire League 2004, is optimistic the amalgamation will take place and is hopeful Netley can be part of it.

"These things take time. It doesn't

Saints Spotlight



Fleet sign fabulous foursome

SYDENHAMS One high fliers Fleet Spurs have announced the signing of four new players.

The versatile Tom Chillery is back at Kennels Lane from Southern League neighbours Fleet Town.

Up front, Spurs have brought in Martyn Williams, who started his career at Queens Park Rangers before dropping into non-League with Kingstonian, Camberley Town and, most recently, Cove.

George Hardy, a commanding centre-back, formerly of Aldershot Town and Camberley, is also on board along with left-side player Jonny Sim.

"We have done well so far this season, but you always need to look to improve," said Spurs boss Danny Roberts.

"These four signings make the squad much stronger and increase competition for places, which is always good. They all trained, slotted straight in and their quality was there for all to see."

Stags get home tie

AFC TOTTEN will renew FA Cup rivalries with Fleet Town at the Testwood Stadium next Saturday after the north Hampshire club edged a 4-3 thriller against Alton Town last Saturday.

Brewers skipper Steve Brown (2) and Ian Dyer kept the Sydenhams Premier underdogs on terms, but a pulsating tie was settled by a classy strike from Fleet's James Pilgrim with nine minutes to go.

CRAIG DAVIS: Faces old club.

When Totton last crossed FA Cup paths with Fleet in 2008/09, the Stags secured a 5-2 third qualifying round win spurred on by a hat-trick of penalties from midfielder Craig Davis.

Davis now plays for Fleet in the Southern League Division One Central, having followed the north Hampshire club's assistant manager Andy Leader across from Andover.

City 'calendar girls' raise funds

SALISBURY City are producing their own "Calendar Girls" calendar to raise funds for Salisbury District Hospital and the club.

An official launch evening is planned for next Thursday (September 15, 7.30pm)

and it is hoped that TV gardener Charlie Dimmock will be present, along with representatives of SDH's charity Stars Appeal, nurses from the Pembroke Unit and the club's directors, players and team managers.

The Whites have

received valuable sponsorship from club chairman William Harrison-Allan, director Chris Brammall and regular sponsors Aqua One, Cara Glass and Elsee Associates. The price of the calendar will be £8 for one or £15 for two.

Thursday's event will be followed by the regular supporters' quiz night.

Admission is £6 non members and £5 members and includes a hot meal.

Book in advance by phoning the club on 01722 776655.

Hart stays at Whites

FORMER AFC Bournemouth defender Callum Hart has agreed a contract that will keep him at Salisbury City until the end of the season.

Hart, pictured, rejoined the Whites in the summer on a non-contract basis following a short, injury-hit spell at the end of last term.

The Welsh defender began his career as a youth player with Bristol City and

went on to make 47 Cherries appearances during Sean O'Driscoll's time in charge.

After leaving Dean Court in 2007, he had spells with Weymouth, Farnborough, Weston-super-Mare and, latterly, Bath City from whom he joined the Whites last March.

Assistant manager Mikey Harris said: "Callum has been one of our most consistent players since he returned for pre-season."

And Cardiff-born Hart, 25, added: "For the first time in a while I am really enjoying my football."

"I'd like to thank the gaffer (Darrell Clarke) and Mikey for giving me another opportunity to be full-time."

Totton need fixtures man

SOUTHERN Premier high-fliers AFC Totton need a new fixtures secretary.

The suitable candidate must be available for both the first team's home and away fixtures so they must be prepared to travel.

The vacancy follows John Heskings' decision to stand down as vice-chairman and fixtures secretary.

Having helped the Stags in their rise from the Wessex League to the Southern Premier and in the move to their new Testwood Stadium home, Heskings was no longer enjoying the job and said that other personal reasons had made the decision for him.

Announcing his departure on the AFC Totton website Heskings said: "I will still be around the club helping with bits and bobs here and there."

"This is still the best team and deserves the best support on and off the pitch."

Applications with CV to secretary@afctotton.com

Refs meet

THE Eastleigh Referees' Society are holding their September meeting at Eastleigh FC's Silverlake Stadium on Monday (September 12, 7.30pm). The guest speaker is Mr Dan Berry. All are welcome.

Bemerton get Danny's vote



GOAL ACE: Ashley Jarvis.

DANNY Bowers is sticking with his prediction that Bemerton Heath Harlequins will succeed Poole Town as Sydenhams Wessex League champions.

Bowers's GE Hamble side started today five points clear at the Sydenhams summit having won five and drawn one of their opening six games.

Bemerton would have made ground on them had they got a result at Romsey Town in midweek, but Ian Chalk's men - league runners-up last season - succumbed to a surprise 1-0 defeat to leave the Planemakers in the driving seat.

Asked his thoughts on Hamble's title prospects, co-boss Bowers said: "It wouldn't surprise me if we won it, but over the course of the season I still think Bemerton are the team to beat."

"Poole deserved to go up and so did VT (now Sholing) before them and the same could be said of Bemerton. They've been right up there for the last two or three years."

"Winchester City and Lymington Town will be up there fighting, but I think Bemerton have got the strongest squad."

While delighted with the start Hamble have made, Bowers knows the bubble could burst sooner or later.

"I'm sure we'll have a bad spell at some stage like everyone else, but we're enjoying where we are at the moment," he said.

Wendy Gee

wendy.gee@dailyecho.co.uk

NON-LEAGUE REPORTER



"The feel-good factor around the club is fantastic."

"I don't think the players are feeling the pressure at the top. Last season we were at the other end of the table playing catch-up and that's when the pressure is really on."

"The lads are enjoying their football and playing with smiles on their faces and they've got a winning mentality."

"We didn't play well at Downton last week, but we ground out a 2-1 result which showed the character of the side."

Declan McGregor fired Downton into a 22nd-minute lead, but the Planemakers hit back with a 35th-minute Jamie Musselwhite penalty awarded for handball and an 83rd-minute Ashley Jarvis winner set up by substitute Jamie Barron.

"If I'm honest, we were lucky to win it," said Bowers.

"Downton were by far the better team in the first half."

"We were much improved in the second half, but a few decisions went our way and I felt a bit sorry for the Downton manager Jeff Softley."

"No one had a good game for us, but that's when you need your centre forwards to get you goals and that's what Jamie Musselwhite and Ashley Jarvis are all about."

Brett makes his United bow

BRETT Williams got a long-awaited first taste of Football League action at Swindon Town last Saturday.

The ex-Eastleigh, AFC Totton and Winchester City striker went on as a 63rd-minute substitute for npow-

er League Two outfit Rotherham United whom he has joined on loan from Reading until the end of January.

A minute after Williams' arrival, the Millers retook the lead through debutant Alex Revell having had

Revell's earlier strike scrubbed out by Matt Ritchie. But Rotherham had Danny Schofield dismissed for a second yellow and Swindon hit back through two-goal substitute Alan Connell to seal a 3-2 win.

Twenty-three-year-old

Hedge End lad Williams joined Reading for £50,000 from Blue Square Bet outfit Eastleigh during January's transfer window.

He had yet to make a senior first-team appearances for the Royals prior to his Rotherham switch.

Saints Spotlight

Job on offer at Braishfield

AMBITIOUS Braishfield are on the lookout for a reserve team manager to take charge of their Southampton Junior Division 6 side on Saturday afternoons.

After years of frustration and toiling in the junior leagues, Braishfield – whose first team play in Junior 1 – are looking to return to senior football and push their way back into the Hampshire League.

Already things have started well under new manager Colin Plumhoff. “We started training in June,

something the club haven't done for over ten years,” he said.

“And we have booked training during the season – again something Braishfield haven't done for ten years or more.”

The village club are still short of players, particularly defenders, but newcomers in any position would be welcome.

“There are many things we need to put in place by the start of next season, so we have plenty of time,” said Plumhoff.

“Bringing in a reserve team manager will be another step in the right direction, but any player who wishes to play for Braishfield must be prepared to play in Junior 1 and 6.”

Braishfield have gained two sponsorships. Window World are sponsoring their new black and white kit, while 123 Business Solutions are funding the new blue kit.

With the money already raised for the club's new pavilion – and hopefully more to come – it won't be long before it is built.

Anyone wishing to play for Braishfield or manage their reserves can ring first-team manager Colin Plumhoff on 023 8048 0628 or 07949 066946.

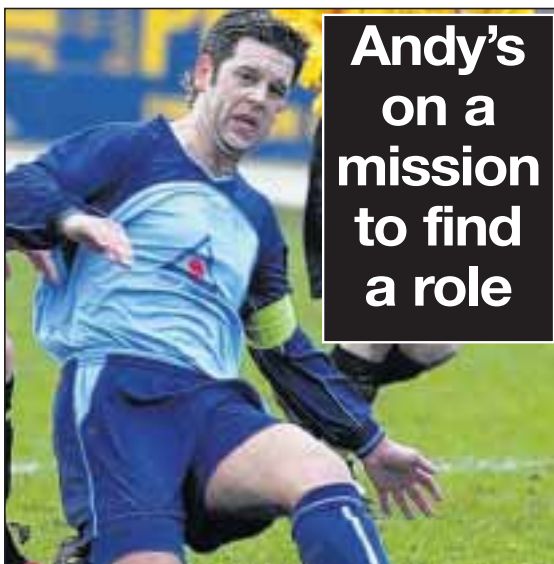
Alternatively you can email him at djdecad@hotmail.co.uk

Tyro side in keeper hunt

HEDGE End Rangers Under-11 A side are looking for an experienced goalkeeper to join a happy and very successful squad for their first Tyro League season.

Ideally experienced and athletic, a willingness to learn and determination to succeed are most important.

If top quality professional coaching and the opportunity to play good football with great teammates is of interest, please contact Dave Kimber on 07770 411961 or email HERangers@btinternet.com



Andy's on a mission to find a role

ANDY Darnton is back from holiday and itching to get back into football.

Having spent the last two seasons assisting Andy Leader at Andover, the former Bashley defender, pictured, was in pole position to take charge of the Lions when Leader's successor Steve Moss left for Rotherham United during the summer.

But Andover went under just days before his expected appointment, leaving Darnton at a loose end.

“I've been on holiday and now I want to get back into it if I

can,” said the 42-year-old from Hedge End.

“I'm happy to coach or manage, I just want to stay involved.

“It was disappointing what happened at Andover and it's a bit of a culture shock for me not having something to do on a Saturday afternoon.

“I retired from playing at 38 and have been coaching and/or managing for the last six to eight years.

“I feel I've got a lot to offer in whatever shape or form.”

Darnton can be contacted on 07817 633442.

Horndean Keel' over at Poppies

VETERAN winger Justin Keeler and Dan Taylor were on target as Bournemouth Poppies tasted success in their 999th Wessex League match – a 2-0 home win over Horndean on Tuesday.

The Dorset club – one of the league's founder members – were due to play their 1000th game at home to Romsey Town today in the Premier Division.

Brockenhurst, who are also on the brink of achieving quadruple figures, will have to wait a little longer to get there.

John Pyatt's Division One side do not return to league action until Tuesday, September 20 when they entertain Warminster Town at Grigg Lane.

Holland in pain gain

CHRIS Holland is playing through the pain barrier for his new club Havant & Waterlooville.

The central defender, who moved along the M27 from Eastleigh during the summer, broke a toe in Havant's 4-1 reverse at Salisbury City on bank holiday Monday and needed painkillers to get him through last Saturday's game at Eastbourne Borough.

That too ended in defeat (2-1), making it five losses for the Hawks in their opening seven games of the Blue Square Bet South season.

Ex-Eastleigh striker Warren McBean's brief stay at the club has come to an end, but manager Shaun Gale has added two new names to his injury-stricken squad.

Midfielder Conor Okus has signed on a month's loan from npower League two side Dagenham & Redbridge and is joined at Westleigh Park by ex-QPR and Bishops Stortford left-sided player Chris Arthur.



McBEAN

Islanders in Poppies tie

TWO Ross Gregory goals got Newport IoW safely through Wednesday's FA Cup preliminary round replay against AFC Portchester.

Paul Sleep's Islanders ran out 2-1 winners to book a trip to Bournemouth Poppies next Saturday (September 17).

The other midweek replay was a stormy affair between Brockenhurst and Lyngington Town, which saw three players red-carded at Grigg Lane.

Lyngington had ex-Brock boys Craig Shrimpton and Liam Crook dismissed in the space of five second-half minutes after Gareth Byres' 35th-minute opener had been cancelled out by Brock's Ben Sullivan.

The Badgers punished the ten men with a Mark Barker winner before having Mike Spinney sent off for a late challenge on Town keeper Stuart Williamson.

Brock's reward is a trip to Sydenhams One rivals Whitchurch United, who have dumped Premier Division duo Bemerton Heath Harlequins and Brading Town out of the competition.

Local and national football fixtures for the week ahead

Sunday, September 11

BARCLAYS PREMIER LEAGUE
Fulham v Blackburn (4.00) Norwich v West Brom (1.30)

NPPOWER CHAMPIONSHIP
Birmingham v Millwall (12.30).

Monday, September 12

BARCLAYS PREMIER LEAGUE
QPR v Newcastle (8.00)

EVO-STIK SOUTHERN LEAGUE
Premier Division: Hitchin v Cambridge City
Division One South & West: Taunton v Poole

Tuesday, September 13

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE
Group E: Chelsea v Bayer Leverkusen, Genk v Valencia

Group F: Borussia Dortmund v Arsenal, Olympiacos v Marseille

Group G: Apoel Nicosia v Zenit St Petersburg, FC Porto v Shakhtar Donetsk

Group H: Barcelona v AC Milan, Plzen v BATE (at Synot Tip Arena)

CARLING CUP
Second Round: Charlton v Preston, Crystal Palace v Wigan (8.00)

NPPOWER
League 1: Brentford v Colchester, Chesterfield v Bury, Exeter v Notts County, Leyton Orient v Bournemouth, Rochdale v Scunthorpe, Sheff Utd v Huddersfield, Stevenage v Sheff Wed, Tranmere v Carlisle, Walsall v Oldham, Yeovil v Wycombe

League 2: AFC Wimbledon v Northampton, Accrington Stanley v Rotherham, Barnet v Plymouth, Bristol Rovers v Shrewsbury, Burton Albion v Crewe, Crawley Town v Swindon, Dag & Red v Oxford Utd, Hereford v Aldershot, Macclesfield v Morecambe, Port Vale v Bradford, Southend v Gillingham, Torquay v Cheltenham.

BLUE SQUARE BET
Premier: AFC Telford v Luton, York v Bath City.

BLUE SQUARE BET SOUTH
Hampton & Richmond v Dorchester, Maidenhead Utd v Havant and W, Staines Town v Chelmsford.

EVO-STIK SOUTHERN LEAGUE

Premier Division: Banbury v Chesham, Barwell v Brackley, Bashley v Chippenham, Cirencester v Weymouth, Evesham v Stourbridge, Hemel Hempstead v Arlesey, Leamington v Bedford, Oxford City v Frome, Redditch v Swindon

Supermarine, St Albans v AFC Totton.

Division One South & West:
Abingdon Utd v Halesowen, Cinderford v Hungerford, Clevedon v Bridgwater, Didcot v North Leigh, Tiverton v Mangotsfield, Wimborne v Bideford, Yate v Bishops Cleeve.

HAMPSHIRE SENIOR CUP
First round: Alton Town v New Milton, Moneyfields v Totton & Eling, Hartley Wintney v Team Solent, Romsey v Cowes Sports, AFC Portchester v Newport IoW, US Portsmouth v Stockbridge, Christchurch v Eversley, Brockenhurst v East Cowes Vics, Hythe & Dibden v Fleet Spurs, Alresford Town v Hayling Utd, Horndean v GE Hamble, Tadley Calveia v Blackfield & Langley.

SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE
Premier Division: Brading v Winchester City, Hamworthy Utd v Bournemouth Poppies.

SWL Cup, first round: Ringwood v Bemerton HH.

PUMA ENGINEERING HAMPSHIRE PREMIER LEAGUE
Senior Division: Locks Heath v Bournemouth Sports (7.30)

Combination Division: AFC Aldermaston v Colden Common

WYVERN COMBINATION LEAGUE
Division One West: Romsey v Totton & Eling

Division One East: Hayling v Whitchurch.

Wednesday, September 14
UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE
Group A: Man City v Napoli, Villarreal v Bayern Munich.

Group B: Inter Milan v Trabzonspor, Lille v CSKA Moscow.

Group C: Basle v Otelul Galati, Benfica v Man Utd.

Group D: Ajax v Lyon, Dinamo Zagreb

v Real Madrid.

EVO-STIK SOUTHERN LEAGUE
Division One South & West: Sholing v Paulton Rovers, Thatcham v Stourport Swifts

WYVERN COMBINATION LEAGUE
Premier Division: Dorchester v Eastleigh, Moneyfields v Bashley.

WYVERN Challenge Cup, first round:
Bemerton HH v Alton, Christchurch v Petersfield, Poole Town v Winchester City.

Thursday, September 15
UEFA EUROPA LEAGUE
Group A: PAOK Salonika v Tottenham (6.00), Shamrock Rovers v Rubin Kazan (at Aviva Stadium) (6.00).

Group E: Dynamo Kiev v Stoke (6.00).

Group H: Birmingham v Braga (8.05).

Group I: Atletico Madrid v Celtic (8.05).

Group K: Fulham v FC Twente (8.05)

HAMPSHIRE SENIOR CUP
First round: Andover New Street v Cove

SOUTHAMPTON SENIOR CUPAFC
Totton v Netley Central Sports (away withdrawn).

Saturday, September 17
BARCLAYS PREMIER LEAGUE
Aston Villa v Newcastle, Blackburn v Arsenal (12.45), Bolton v Norwich, Everton v Wigan, Swansea v West Brom, Wolverhampton v QPR.

NPPOWER
Championship: Barnsley v Watford, Blackpool v Cardiff, Crystal Palace v Middlesbrough, Hull v Portsmouth, Leeds v Bristol City, Leicester v Brighton, Millwall v West Ham (12.30), Nottm Forest v Derby (1.00), Peterborough v Burnley, Reading v Doncaster.

League 1: Brentford v Preston, Chesterfield v Carlisle, Exeter v Bournemouth, Hartlepool v Bury, Leyton Orient v Oldham, Milton Keynes Dons v Huddersfield, Rochdale v Charlton, Sheff Utd v Colchester, Stevenage v Notts County, Tranmere v Wycombe, Walsall v Scunthorpe, Yeovil v Sheff Wed.

League 2: AFC Wimbledon v Cheltenham, Accrington Stanley v Crewe, Barnet v Oxford Utd, Bristol Rovers v Aldershot, Burton Albion v Swindon, Crawley Town v Bradford, Dag & Red v Morecambe, Hereford v Northampton, Port Vale v Shrewsbury, Torquay v Plymouth, Torquay v Rotherham.

BLUE SQUARE BET PREMIER
AFC Telford v Bath City, Barrow v Mansfield, Braintree Town v Newport County, Darlington v Hayes & Yeading, Ebbsfleet United v Fleetwood Town, Forest Green v Southport, Gateshead v Cambridge Utd, Kettering v Tamworth, Kidderminster v Alfreton Town, Luton v Lincoln City, Stockport v Grimsby, Wrexham v York.

BLUE SQUARE BET SOUTH
Basingstoke v Dorchester, Eastbourne Borough v Boreham Wood, Eastleigh v Hampton & Richmond, Farnborough v Dartford, Havant & Waterlooville v Thurrock, Staines v Bromley, Tonbridge Angels v Salisbury, Truro v Sutton, Welling v Maidenhead, Weston-super-Mare v Chelmsford, Woking v Dover.

FA CUP
First qualifying round: Hungerford v Horndean, Whitechurch v Brockenhurst, Sholing v Blackfield & Langley, Poole Town v Kingstorian, Bournemouth Poppies v Newport IoW, Hartley Wintney v Bashley, AFC Totton v Fleet Town, Godalming Town v Moneyfields, Weymouth v Taunton Town v Buckland Athletic.

SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE
Premier Division: Alton v Downton, Bemerton HH v Hayling Utd, Fareham v Alresford, GE Hamble v Christchurch, Totton & Eling v Laverstock & Ford, Winchester City v Hamworthy Utd.

Division One: AFC Portchester v Ringwood, Amesbury v Team Solent, Andover NS v Petersfield, Cowes Sports v Fleet Spurs, Stockbridge v Hythe & Dibden, US Portsmouth v Verwood, Warminster v East Cowes Vics.

PUMA ENGINEERING HAMPSHIRE

TODAY'S RESULTS - SEE PAGE 48

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Hampshire Cricket Spotlight



twitter

SIMON Jones despairs at Robert Earnshaw's miss for Wales against England at Wembley as he continues his prolific start to life on Twitter.

Red or Black, the new high stakes television programme, is a popular addition to the prime-time schedule for two of Hampshire's tweeters this week.

Meanwhile, Dominic Cork confirms he was dropped and not 'rested' for the big LV County Championship match against Lancashire at Liverpool and Kent captain Geraint Jones waxes lyrical over Hampshire loanee David Balcombe's performances.

Simon Jones (@si610)

What was ernshaw [sic] doing!! Not been a great day and to top it off there's water pissing through one of my spot lights in living room!!! :(

Big brother is on in my house! Not from choice I may add!! Watched red or black! What a great winner! Nice to see That was unbelievable! Haka is amazing!!!



ON FORM: Simon Jones has been a prolific tweeter since signing up.

Liam Dawson (@daws128)

Holiday to egypt soon! cant wait! then a winter in zimbabwe playing Franchise cricket. Hopefully its good!

Dominic Cork (@Corkyongrass)

I have been dropped but good luck to the lads.

Danny Briggs (@DannyBriggs19)

Red or black what a programme!!!

Benny Howell (@BennyHowell13)

Yep for the second time this summer I have locked my keys in the boot of my car! inaworldofmyown Just watches inbetweeners movie... Could not stop laughing the whole way through it! Brilliant!

Geraint Jones (@GoJones623)

Is there a more in form bowler in the country than David Balcome? [sic] In his 5 games for us he's taken 4x 5 wicket hauls and 1x 10fer. helloECB

Hampshire's still on even

Simon Walter

simon.walter@dailyecho.co.uk

CRICKET REPORTER

HAMPSHIRE's Great Escape attempt is still on despite failing to hold on for a draw against Lancashire at Liverpool.

Having been bottom of the first division for more than three months, Hampshire could yet beat the drop but they missed out on three points that could prove vital at Aigburth CC on Saturday afternoon.

Hampshire had hopes of being set a realistic target when the final day began but Lancashire captain Glen Chapple decided to bat the visitors out of the game before declaring – setting them 361 to win in a minimum of 67 overs.

Marathon spells for slow left-armers Gary Keedy and Simon Kerrigan ensured there would be many more than that.

But the draw was always going to be the best Hampshire could hope for and they were denied in cruel fashion.

Hampshire's last-wicket pair of Neil McKenzie and James Tomlinson batted for nearly an hour.

But with only a few minutes left of Hampshire's penultimate match of the season, McKenzie became Kerrigan's NINTH victim of the innings as the visitors were bowled out for 138.

Lancashire's win by 222 runs keeps alive their hopes of a first Championship title since 1934 going into the final round of games.

But Hampshire will now need a big Rose Bowl win against Warwickshire, who lead Lancashire by three points at the top of the first division, to keep alive their faint hopes of first division survival.

Lancashire began the final day on 195-2, a lead of 202, and added 158 in just 27 overs before declaring on 353-3.

Chris Wood was particularly expensive (9-0-76-0) but Lancashire decided to put Hampshire's bowlers out of their misery when



SAVIOUR: Sean Ervine's 128 in Hampshire's first innings rescued them from a potentially perilous situation in their clash with Lancashire at Liverpool.

Karl Brown (54) was caught by McKenzie – a second wicket of the season for Liam Dawson.

Lancashire opener Stephen Moore dominated the third-wicket partnership of 161 and added 92 to

his overnight 77 before finishing on 169 not out (230 balls, seven fours).

Two overs were lost to rain when Hampshire were 26-0, but Liam Dawson was stumped by a big mar-

gin shortly after the resumption, a first victim for Kerrigan.

Much rested on captain Jimmy Adams, who made a ten-hour 194 – the longest innings by a Hampshire batsman since records

SEE MONDAY'S ECHO FOR MORE HAMPSHIRE NEWS

Hampshire Cricket Spotlight

Great Escape after defeat

Balcombe shining on his Kent loan spell

DAVID Balcombe admits his future is uncertain as he prepares to end his Kent loan by playing in the LV County Championship's first floodlit match.

The Hampshire fast bowler has taken 30 wickets at 18.8 apiece in only five matches for Kent in the Championship's second division this season.

That compares favourably with 35 wickets at 35.02 in his five years with Hampshire, but Balcombe does not know whether he will be back at the Rose Bowl next season.

Balcombe, who is under contract to Hampshire until the end of 2012, admits: "I don't know what's going to happen."



ABOVE: James Tomlinson proved a thorn in Lancashire's side in Hampshire's second innings.

RIGHT: Neil McKenzie's stoic 38 from 186 balls nearly saw Hampshire home at Liverpool before he was the last man dismissed.



the score on 107.

Ervine (16) was caught at slip and Michael Bates was bowled for a two-ball duck in the same over.

Two overs later, Dimi Mascarenhas (0), like Ervine, got a nick to Paul Horton at slip following some variable bounce.

Wicketkeeper Gareth Cross held on to a juggled catch to dismiss Chris Wood, who faced 27 balls for four runs before becoming Kerrigan's seventh victim.

Danny Briggs also fell to fellow slow left armer Kerrigan when he was caught at silly point by Luke Proctor without scoring.

That left number eleven James Tomlinson with the challenge of batting out the final 55 minutes with McKenzie.

Hampshire's final pair had several narrow escapes, most notably with 25 minutes remaining when Proctor, one of ten fielders around the bat, dropped McKenzie.

Tomlinson was at his stoic best, facing 51 balls for his one not out.

But with time left for no more than two more overs, McKenzie was caught by one of several close fielders for 38 (186 balls), prompting jubilant scenes at Aigburth.

Kerrigan finished with 9-51 – the best figures by a Lancashire bowler since 1953.

Hampshire were 19 points adrift of Worcestershire before the penultimate round of games.

But despite their defeat they closed the gap by two points thanks to Worcestershire's 251-run defeat at home to Sussex, who are now safe.

It all means Hampshire need 17 points more than Worcestershire from the last round of games, which begin on Monday.

Hampshire will hold sway over Worcestershire if they finish level on points, having lost fewer games in the Championship this season.

But they will need to make sure they get maximum points against Warwickshire and hope Worcestershire lose at Durham next week.

Yorkshire delayed the inevitable by winning their final match, by six wickets against Somerset at Headingley – but a solitary first-innings bonus point for Worcestershire at Durham on Monday will send them down.



The 26-year-old has been revitalised in Canterbury, claiming four five-wicket hauls and a career-best match figures of 10-102.

"They've all taken me in as one of their own, it's been brilliant," he said.

"I've been entrusted with quite a lot of responsibility. I like being thrown the ball all the time, and not fielding at fine leg.

"I've had a lot of overs, the way I've been getting people out has been the most pleasing aspect of it.

I've done a lot of work in the winter on my action and it's paying off now.

"To get the rewards I have done has been unbelievable for me, but looking any further ahead, I just want to get through this game, Glamorgan next week and then see where I am.

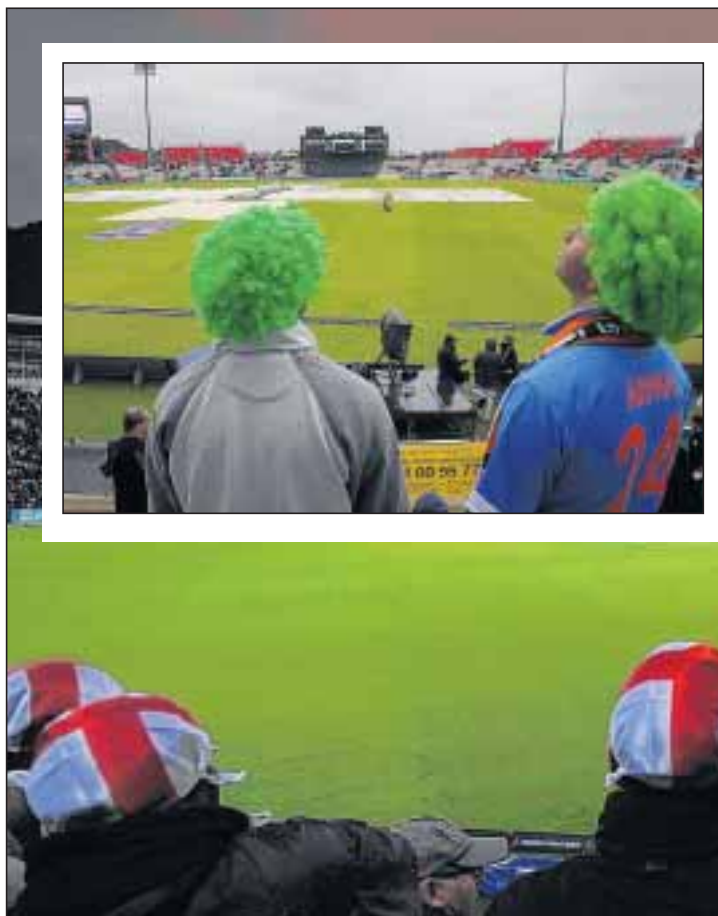
"I'd love to get recognition with higher honours but it's just about performing in first-class cricket and performances speak for themselves."

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Hampshire Cricket Spotlight



GET IN: Jimmy Anderson celebrates taking a wicket against India at the Rose Bowl.



RAIN CAN'T

THE Rose Bowl's 13th one-day international may have been delayed for several hours by rain, but it was worth the wait for a capacity crowd.

England beat India by seven wickets when the action eventually got underway at 7pm – five hours after the scheduled start.

Captain Alastair Cook was full of praise for Rose Bowl groundsman Nigel Gray and the rest of the groundstaff.

Cook made an unbeaten 80 as England chased down India's 187-8 with five balls left of a match reduced to 23 overs a side.

He said: "We have to thanks the groundstaff, it was an amazing effort to get the pitch ready and it was a great game of cricket.

"It was a fantastic wicket.

When I won the toss we thought the conditions would be ideal for bowling after being under the covers.

"But it didn't do anything during the first two overs, it just skidded on nicely under the lights. It was a really, really good wicket, the best I've batted on for a long time."

England needed 8.13 an over when they began their chase, but it never looked in doubt with Captain Cook making a mockery of doubts over his ability to transfer his Test form to the one-day format.

"We thought they had a par score at halfway because the wicket was so good," he said.

Following the abandonment of last week's first ODI, England took a 2-0 lead by winning at The Oval yesterday.

APPLAUSE: Alastair Cook after his match-winning knock.



Hampshire Cricket Spotlight



CHANGING FORTUNES: Fans at the Rose Bowl were teated to a spectacular sunset while England took on India, left. Earlier things had not looked so good, inset left.

RIGHT AND BELOW: Fans enjoy their time at the cricket.



Order no: 13096293



Order no: 13096281

DAMPEN SPIRITS



WAITING IT OUT: Right and above, fans at the Rose Bowl sit out the early rain and were rewarded for their patience with a 23-over-a-side thriller.



Order no: 13090895



APPEAL: Vinay Kumar states his case, above, while fans young old enjoy the spectacle, right.



Order no: 13096151

SEE MONDAY'S ECHO FOR THE LATEST HAMPSHIRE NEWS

Local Cricket Spotlight

Bounty men share the title despite loss

BASINGSTOKE and North Hants ended up as joint champions of Thames Valley League Division 1 – despite losing by two wickets to visiting Amersham in their final game of the campaign on Saturday.

On a bizarre day the Bounty men picked up three more points in defeat than season-long leaders Cove did for drawing against Finchampstead.

The two teams finished level on 288 – but it is Cove who will be offered promotion to the Home Counties Premier League as they won more games.

It's thought that the champions could decline a move up and, if that happens, Basingstoke will be promoted.

The Bounty men finished just three runs or one wicket short of the extra bonus point that would have secured promotion.

They recovered well after batting first and being reduced to 114-6, finishing on 197-8 as captain Russell Droy top-scored with 41, with good support from Chris Froud and Dean Nurse, who both made 36.

The game looked set to end in a draw as Amersham needed 10 from the last over to secure victory, but two consecutive sixes from Jaco Nel saw them win by two wickets with three balls to spare.

A reflective Basingstoke captain Droy said: "We have come so close and can look back at points dropped along the way – as I am sure Cove can as well. We should have won at Beaconsfield early in the season and we also had Henley nine down and they held out for a draw.

"We wanted to get promoted, but we will have to wait and see what happens as I have been told Cove don't want to go up.

"If that is the case we will be offered the place and will accept it."

Looking back on the final game of the season, Droy said: "We needed to get 200 out there, but our top order did not do as well as they have all season and in the end we did well to get to 197.

"We found it tough to get wickets, but spinner Raja (Raja Naseer Ahmed) has done really well coming into the team and getting four wickets."

● Veteran organiser Cyril Thompson will be keeping a closer than normal eye on the weekend weather, with the rain delayed final of the long established Guy Jewell T20 Cup being scheduled for Basingstoke's historic May's Bounty ground on Sunday at noon.

Hartley Wintney and Hook & Newnham Basics go head-to-head once again, with Hook seeking to end a barren ten year sequence.

Not since one-time Trojans batsman Vince Gardner lifted the trophy in 2000 have Hook taken the Guy Jewell Cup back to the KGV.



HAMPSHIRE U17S:

Standing (left-right): James Halson, Matt King, Miles Covers, Greg Thew, Jake George, Robert Gibson, Ryan Scott. Seated: Wilf Marriott, Lewis McManus, James Haggaty, Ollie Mills, Ollie Green.

Youngsters bag the county title

HAMPSHIRE'S aspiring teenager cricketers were the toast of the Rose Bowl this week after claiming a second prestigious national Under-17 title in four seasons, writes MIKE VIMPANY.

They won the ECB Under-17 County Cup, beating their Durham counterparts by three wickets in the final at Kibworth, Leicestershire, on Sunday.

Four years ago – with the likes of Michael Bates, Danny Briggs, Hamza Riazuddin and James Vince in the side – they thrashed the north-east county at Hove to win the ECB County Youth Championship crown for the first and

only time. Defeat by Worcestershire in the final west group match in Stourport last month put paid to Hampshire's hopes of becoming two-day champs again.

But Tony Middleton's Young Royals pushed that disappointment to one side to beat the strongly fancied Surrey in the 50-over semi-final at Sunbury.

That set up a tasty final against the previously undefeated Durham who, like Hampshire, have their Academy side playing in an ECB Premier League.

It didn't go that well at the start, with Hampshire's seam attack struggling to control the swinging Tiflex ball and Durham racing to 70-2 in the 11th of their rain trimmed 42 overs.

Some timely and effective spin bowling by Robert Gibson and Wilf Marriott sent Durham tumbling to 136-7.

But a lower-order recovery enabled Durham – boosted by 39 extras, 29 of which were wides – to reach a challenging 195-9.

A breezy half-century start by Jake George (37) and Gibson gave Hampshire a powerful launch pad, which Marriott (27) and James Halson subsequently extended.

Halson, whose 49 would probably have won a man-of-the-match award had there been one, and Ollie Mills (26) produced the fifth-wicket partnership that effectively sealed it.

But at 184-4 and with only 12 more runs

required, Hampshire lost both batsmen and their wicketkeeper Lewis McManus (whose four victims in the afternoon session complemented a fine display behind the stumps) in quick succession.

At 190-7, Durham were back in with half a chance.

But Ryan Scott – the 16-year old son of former Hampshire left-hander and now head Middlesex coach Richard Scott – wasn't going to let his Andy Warhol moment of glory pass him by.

Two on-side boundaries later and Scott was holding his bat aloft to acknowledge a three-wicket Hampshire victory achieved with seven balls to spare.

Durham	
R Buckley st McManus b Thew	10
A Tahir c Marriott b Haggaty	32
L Harper c McManus b King	1
J Coyne c McManus b Covers	10
J Weighell st McManus b Gibson	34
D Seymour run out	12
+ C Pearce c Scott b Marriott	11
* J Bousefield c Gibson b Marriott	3
G Harrison lbw Haggaty	17
J Quinn not out	11
T Raglan not out	15
Extras (29 wides)	39
Total (9 wickets)(42 overs)	195
Fall: 36, 37, 70, 85, 112, 131, 136, 156, 167.	
Bowling: G Thew 5-0-25-1, M King 6-0-40-1, J Haggaty 8-0-35-2, M Covers 5-0-19-1, W Marriott 9-0-39-2, R Gibson 9-1-31-1.	
Hampshire	
J George b Bousefield	37
R Gibson b Harper	12
W Marriott c Pearce b Buckley	27
J Halson b Weighell	49
O Green c Nicholson b Buckley	13
O Mills b Weighell	26
R Scott not out	9
+ L McManus b Buckley	0
* J Haggaty not out	2
Extras (12 wides)	23
Total (7 wickets)(40.5 overs)	198
Dnb: M King, G Thew.	
Fall: 51, 59, 92, 119, 184, 185, 190.	
Bowling: L Harper 7-0-30-1, J Rousefield 9-0-45-1, J Weighell 7-5-0-31-2, G Nicholson 2-0-16-0, R Buckley 8-0-35-3, T Raglan 4-0-20-0, J Quinn 3-0-16-0.	

GO BACK TO PAGES 36-37 FOR THE LATEST HANTS NEWS

Local Cricket Spotlight

OWEN SHINES IN SEPL ISLAND WIN

SOUTH Wilts all-rounder Owen Alsop was the inspirational figure as the Southern Electric Premier League twice fought back to deny the Isle of Wight Cricket Board victory in the annual Under-21 match at Newclose.

The SPL youngsters were in strife at 61-5 (Michael Porter 27) but Alsop, who went on to make 80 (one six and 12 fours) and Chris Stone (48) added a vital 98 for the sixth wicket.

Wickets continued to fall but after Alsop had perished in the deep, last pair

Tom Barber (14), pictured, and Chris Jolley (13) added an entertaining and precious 25 to lift the SPL total to 231 (Charlie Calloway 3-37, Tom Barton 3-35).

The Island youngsters, who had fielded well, responded in style with Ventnor pair James Cheek

(50) and Billy Clarke (30) putting on 73 and Tommy Barton (30) helping the score on to 95-1.

But the introduction of spin checked the IWCB dominance – Rob Gibson taking 3-46 and Chris Stone bowling tidily – to put the match back in the balance.

Ben Woodhouse (49) and Henry Bartlett (29) tilted it back in the Island's favour but some fine left-arm pace bowling by the highly promising Tom Barber pictured in action left the hosts short.

Had the IWCB youngsters played 'traditional cricket' in the last few crucial overs, the result might have been different. The Island closed at 222-7, nine runs adrift.

IWCB: James Cheek, Billy Clarke, Tom Barton, Adam Hose, + Ben Woodhouse,* George Hatt, Henry Bartlett, Hugh Calloway, Sam Rockley, Charlie Sammons, Charlie Calloway.



SOUTHERN ELECTRIC PREMIER LEAGUE UNDER-21S: Standing (left-right): Chris Jolley (Hartley Wintney), Jack Mynott (South Wilts), Tom Barber (Academy), Owen Alsop (South Wilts), Will Phillips (Hartley Wintney), Robert Jones (Portsmouth). Front: Ed Ellis (Sparsholt), Michael Porter (Bournemouth), Robert Gibson (Academy), Chris Stone (Academy), Tom Cowley (South Wilts).



HAMPSHIRE UNDER-16S: Top (left-right): Bobby Parks, Lewis McManus, Jack Wood, Charlie Warren, Charlie Harris, [Tournament Sponsor], Miles Covers, Justin Parvess, Max Smith (manager), Jan Trodd (scorer). Front: James Halson, Seth Jackson, Ollie Green, Tim Jackson, Ben Moran-Wardle, Ryan Scott, Ollie Soames.

Under-16s enjoy their island hop

HAMPSHIRE Under-16s put the icing on the cake of a magnificent season-end for local county youth cricket by winning the Jersey festival.

Although they lost by ten runs to Oxfordshire, wins over Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Cheshire and hosts Jersey ensured the trophy went into the Rose Bowl cabinet.

Yateley duo Ollie Soames (batting) and Miles Covers (bowling) won the two main individual awards, with Ollie Green getting the Player's player prize.

Manager Max Smith was full of praise for the Under 16 squad, saying: "It was nice to win the trophy but what was more impressive was how

everyone conducted themselves on and off the pitch and the way that they bonded as a unit and had the maturity to deal with the situations themselves.

"They all were a real credit to themselves and Hampshire."

Scores:
Oxfordshire 190-7 (Green 3-33) Hampshire 180 (Harris 45, Green 26, McManus 25). Oxfordshire won by ten runs.
Cheshire 199-8 Hampshire 201-7 (Soames 59, Wood 36, Halson 27). Hampshire won by three wickets.
Berkshire 170 Hampshire 171-2 (Coulson 49, Green 43, Wood 36, Warren 29). Hampshire won by 8 wickets.
Buckinghamshire 159-5 Hampshire 160-2 (Green 58, Soames 44, Warren 25). Hampshire won by 8 wickets.
Jersey 99 Hampshire 100-1 (Scott 37, Soames 37). Hampshire won by eight wickets.

SEE MONDAY'S ECHO FOR MORE CRICKET NEWS

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ABBOTSWOOD SCHOOL win the Southampton Schools under-11 six-a-side trophy, November 1993. Back (from left) Dean Street, Jos Sweeney, Justin Keer, Lee Walsh. Front: Simon Renders, Josh Griffiths, Jay Fenney, Oliver Wood. Gary Heath is the teacher. November 1993.

Order no: 12980344



BASINGSTOKE UNDER 14S: Back: Adam Gibbs, Daniel Calaharn, Nick Bearne, David Chapman, Steven Oliver, Allen Clemence, Richard Haddock, Andrew Merryfield, Phil Jeffs (manager). Front: David Matthews, Stacey White, Steven Dale, Richard Teale, Neill Butt, Jason Bristow, Ashley Vine, Joe Griffin, Barnaby Powell. January 1994. Order no: 12999703



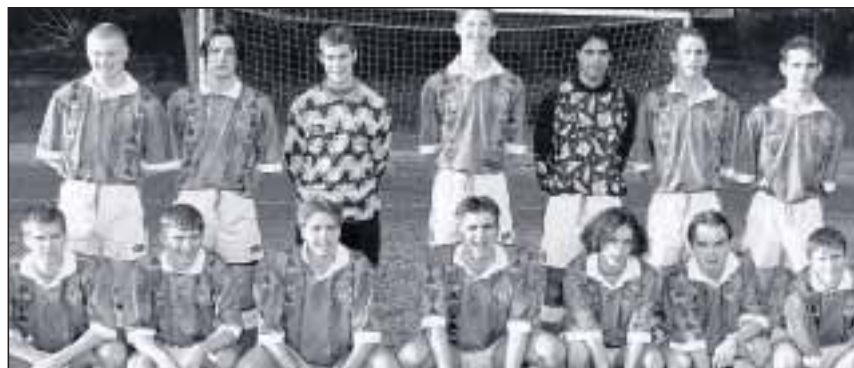
BROCKENHURST COLLEGE: Back row: Cort, Cooke, Gardiner, Few, Pearce, Burton. Front: Taylor, Coxon, Ford, Bowers, Lear. November 1994. Order no: 12999717



PORTSMOUTH SCHOOLS: Back row: Andy Sargent, Ryan Leather, Mark Forster, Victor Agamasu, Michael Williams, Dean Blake, Sam Leng and Jamie Bryce. Front row: Jay Hill, Dave Neill, Perry Holland, David Wright, Chris Burge, Nicky Wyatt, Jason Leabon and Jamie Wilkinson. September 1994. Order no: 12999771



WESTON PARK: Back row: Peter Hart, Mark Tew, Ryan Year, Craig Amos, Ben Lodwidge, Darren Trout, James Freestone. Front: Carl Godwin, Aaron Watts, Ashley Hall, Scott Bevan, James Hamilton, Richard Lodwidge. October 1995. Order no: 12999762



FAREHAM COLLEGE, December 1994. Back (from left): Paul Tucker, Martin Lewis, Peter Geer, Andy Leech, Paul Wright, Stephen Bayley, Luke Searle. Front: Jim Fancey, Ian Ford, Chris Burnett, Matt Jones, Gary Edmunson, Grant Harrower, Matt Davies. Order no: 13001027



BARTON PEVERIL, January 1995. Back (from left) Chris Pillinger, Ross Davies, Stephen Dines, Glenn Lickman, Marc Cole, Stuart Roberts, Richard O'Sullivan, Hedley Woolldridge (manager). Front: Neil Ward, Richard McCormack, Neil Passingham, Ross Whitlock, Nick Lumb, Keith Smart. Order no: 13001055



TAUNTON'S, January 1995. Back (from left): Tom Clifton, David Fall, Andrew Witt, Stuart Pollard, Andy Baker, Lee Brown, Tom Chiverton, Andrew Harris. Front: Joe Emmett, Tim Finn, Chris Zammit, Andrew Whitcher, Andrew Witt, Stuart Thomas. Order no: 13001041

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Scare are they now



RICHARD TAUNTON'S: Back row: Hutchings, Timms, Whitman, Griffiths, Gray, and Singh. Front Angora, Harfield, Fleming, Whicher, Cousens, Laycock. November 1994
Order no: 12999750



TESTWOOD SCHOOL UNDER 14'S: Darren Osman, Simon Lovehurst, Brian Holt, Johnny Cheyne, Kevin Sheath, Ian Clark. February 1994.
Order no: 12999691



CHARLTON HOUSE UNDER 13S: Back (from left) Charlie Kemp, Daniel Balek, James Rolph. Front: Patrick Thompson, Matthew Hill, Alex Smallshaw. February 1995.
Order no: 12999783



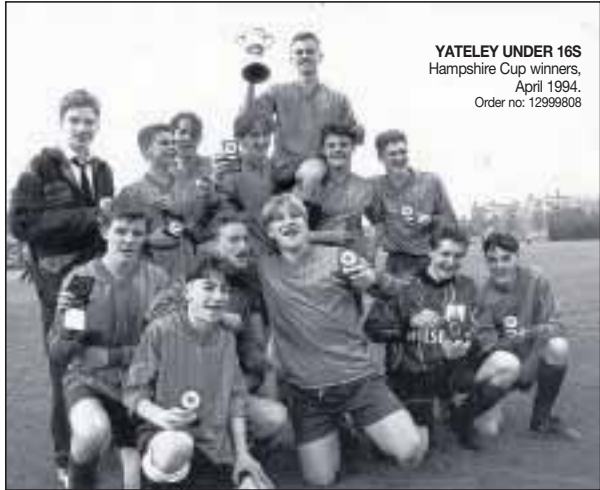
OAKLAND'S UNDER 13S: Back row: Billy Hunt, Jason Knobbs, Marcus Morley. Front: Mark Calloway, David Cook, Peter Lambert. February 1995.
Order no: 12999801



BITTERNE PARK: February 1994. Martin Webb, Peter Hoare, Thomas Mariner, Lewis Mahoney, Christopher Hall and Andrew Wilcox. February 1994. Order no: 12999841



HALTERWORTH: Back row: Robert Pragnell, Alex Luthwaite, Kevin Thornton, Julian Pass (teacher); front: Matthew Townsend, Ollie Green, Alan Cotty, Philip Denbow. April 1994.
Order no: 12999826



YATELEY UNDER 16S
Hampshire Cup winners,
April 1994.
Order no: 12999808



TESTWOOD SCHOOL UNDER-13S: Stuart Hussey, Peter Clark, Craig Porter, Patrick James, Jamie Pulford, Jason Dollard. February 1994.
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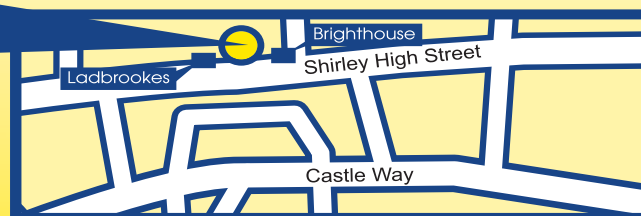
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